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SATURDAY MARCH 24 1990

## Mid Staffs blow to Thatcher

## Tory defeat prompts poll tax rethink

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Ministers were bracing themselves last night for renewed speculation about Mrs Margaret Thatcher's leadership of the Conservative Party in the wake of Labour's Mid Staffordshire by-election triumph.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, will meet the Prime Minister on Monday to assess the Labour landslide.

Although the initial word from 10 Downing Street was that there would be no fundamental policy changes, it was clear yesterday that the Government will conduct a far-reaching reassessment of the community charge in the summer to soften its impact before the general election.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister, accepted that changes would be needed to the charge, but

Conservative insiders said extra money for local government next year would not lead to lower bills if councils boosted their spending.

Mrs Thatcher blamed the by-election defeat on the level of the poll tax imposed by the Labour-controlled county council and high mortgage rates; but she held out no prospect of abrupt changes of policy, and accused Labour of not daring to reveal its alternatives.

"We are not for trimming and turning. We believe in long-term policies of the kind we have implemented over the last 11 years," she said in a letter to Mr Baker.

The result will add to pressure on Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, to take a tough line on charge capping; and the poll tax will feature prominently at next weekend's Conservative Central Council meeting in Cheltenham, where Mrs Thatcher's address now assumes new significance.

Labour was quick to pounce on the personal threat to Mrs Thatcher. Mrs Sylvia Heal, who overturned a 14,654 Conservative majority to win by 9,449 votes, declared the "dark age of Thatcherism is drawing to a close"; and Mr Neil Kinnock said it was now only a matter of time before he comes Prime Minister.

"The difficulty is, of course, that the better we do, then the longer Mrs Thatcher will try to go before calling the next election," he said in Dublin.

The result would add to the pressure on the Prime Minister, but even if the Conservative leader changed before the next general election, he would still be leading the next government, he said.

"They are going to have to make up their minds how quickly they get rid of Mrs Thatcher," he said. "What she does to our country is of very great concern."

Senior Central Office insiders are most concerned that pitting backbenchers do not suggest in public that a change of leadership might be the only solution to the Conservative difficulties. One source said: "If they are going to rush around spreading gloom and despondency, they should lock themselves in a room and do so privately."

That was also the message from Mr Norman Tebbit, the former party chairman, who

said voters would not return to the fold if the party panicked and either dumped or undermined Mrs Thatcher.

But Sir Anthony Meyer, who won the support of one in six Tory MPs in his doomed leadership challenge, said: "The Conservative Party needs to change its policies and its leader if it is to win the next election. It will take another couple of hammer blows, but I expect something to happen by the autumn. If we do not deal with this, we will all go over the precipice with the Prime Minister."

Mr Michael Heseltine, who would be the main beneficiary should Mrs Thatcher fall, was again a model of loyalty, saying: "It's a disappointing result, but the prime priority is to win the battle against inflation. We must not deviate from the policies to achieve that."

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, added: "Our supporters expect wholehearted support for the Prime Minister, who is a world statesman who most countries would give their eye teeth to have as their leader."

Mr Baker's position is not unassailable after the disaster of his first by-election in charge of the Tory machine.

Some Conservative MPs believe that Mr Charles Prior's campaign could have been more aggressive, as Mr Tebbit made clear yesterday by saying that it was no time for hitting back at Labour with "feather dusters", but Mrs Thatcher sought to forestall such criticism by saying in her letter that the campaign "reached the highest standards of organization and of positive communication of our policies".

By-election analysis, page 4  
Triumph and loss, page 4  
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Leading article, page 11



Mr Prior: Tory candidate victim of poll tax anger.

## Inflation slows to 7.5% in February

By Our Economics Staff

The annual rise in prices slowed to 7.5 per cent in February from the 7.7 per cent of each of the previous three months.

The rate is likely to rise sharply in coming months before falling to 7.25 per cent by the end of the year.

The February figure was as expected by the markets. By the end of the day, the pound's trade-weighted index was up 0.3 to 86.1. Against the dollar the pound was up 0.45 cents to \$1.6050 and against the Deutschmark, sterling was up 1.3 pfennigs to DM2.7445.

The stockmarket had a good

day with the FT-SE 100 index rising 25.0 points up to 2283.9. Inflation, measured by the retail price index, will rise because of increases in the price of water, gas and electricity, higher duties on tobacco, petrol and alcohol, allied to price rises in food and clothing.

Excluding mortgage interest rate payments, the rate picked up to 6.2 per cent, the highest since February 1983, after a plateau of four months at 6.1 per cent. City forecasts expect it to reach 7 per cent in coming months.

Inflation slows, page 17

## England's field day in Trinidad



In line for congratulations: Small (left), the England fast bowler, receives the plaudits of (left to right) Gooch, Lamb, Stewart and Capel. The West Indies cricketers rapidly lost eight wickets in Trinidad yesterday. Report, page 49

## Radiation monitors found to be faulty

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Nuclear warhead workers at a Royal Navy armaments depot have been wearing radiation monitoring devices that fail to measure accurately the doses they are receiving, a Ministry of Defence survey has found.

Last night the union representing the workers demanded a thorough review of all installations where the potential risk to MoD employees of radiation exposure "might have been underestimated".

The MoD employees involved in the survey, carried out over 12 months by the ministry's Defence Radiological Protection Service, worked at the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport on the Clyde.

The survey revealed that the dosimeters worn by the employees did not accurately measure the neutron component of the radiation doses. The warheads emit X-rays, gamma rays and neutrons.

Mr Joe Duckworth of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, said: "This latest news from Coulport is extremely worrying. It emphasizes the need for an immediate check on all MoD personnel to ensure their radiation exposure is being accurately measured as the first step in guaranteeing the health of themselves and their families."

Mr Duckworth said he would be taking the matter up with a senior MoD official who had already agreed to see the union following the publication last month in the *British Medical Journal* of research into children born to fathers working at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant. It reported that these children had a greater risk of developing leukaemia.

The MoD said yesterday that analysis had shown that even with the neutrons taken into account, the workers were still receiving radiation doses below the accepted limits.

## Serious Crime Squad to probe union ballot

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Serious Crime Squad is to investigate allegations of ballot rigging in the elections for the national executive committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

When evidence came to light that up to 2,500 stolen voting papers in the union's first full postal ballot had been cast for left-wing candidates in marginal seats, Mr Ron Todd, the general secretary, was forced to order the re-running of the election.

The results of the re-run ballot, to be announced on Monday, could provide more good news for Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, if the majority currently enjoyed by the left is overturned. Of the 39 seats on the executive the left have 21, the "moderates" 18.

With 1,250,000 members, the union commands a huge block vote at Labour Party conferences and has frequently clashed with the Labour Party leadership in

consistently pursuing a unilateral line.

Although Mr Todd the union's first spoke to the police three weeks ago, he did not formally ask them to begin an inquiry until voting in the ballot finished yesterday (Fri).

The security breach, discovered by the Electoral Reform Society, which was running the election, concerned a batch of papers stored at the TGWU headquarters at Transport House, central London. When the breach was first discovered, Mr Todd said: "It is a trauma for the union, but we have got to demonstrate that the vote is being done in a democratic and fair way."

Mr Todd said yesterday he had first spoken to the police on March 2 and advised them that he would ask them to conduct an investigation once the re-run ballot was concluded. He said he had told a special meeting of the executive on February 20 that

there would be a clear need to take the inquiry beyond the union once his own investigation had been concluded.

He added: "I was particularly concerned that nothing should jeopardize or impair the fair and open conduct of the re-run ballot, or prejudice the position of the candidates."

"At a meeting with the police on March 2, I outlined to them my intention to prepare a report on my internal inquiries. I gave them details of the areas which I was examining."

"I also told the police that once the re-run election was concluded I would present them with my report and then request that they commence their own investigation into this most serious matter," he said.

Five years ago Mr Todd declined to take up his position as general secretary until the election ballot in which he was involved was re-run after complaints of rigging.

## £2m debts close War On Want

By Mark Souster

The debt-ridden Third World aid charity War On Want announced last night that it was to be wound up with estimated debts of £2 million.

After a three-and-a-half-hour meeting in central London Miss Ruth Evans, general secretary of the charity, said in a statement: "It is with great sadness that the council of management of War On Want announce that meetings of members and creditors are to be held for the purpose of passing a resolution for creditors voluntary winding up on dates to be decided."

"Statements of the reasons for the proposed resolution will be made at the meeting."

Letters, page 11



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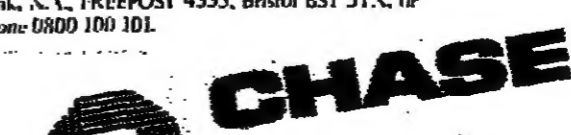
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## INSIDE

## Legacy of the Bounty

On Pitcairn Island most people trace their ancestry back to the Bounty mutineers. But 200 years after Fletcher Christian's landing the population is only 49. Michael Brooke reports on a remarkable community. Page 33

## Amis on the family Amis



Kingsley Amis was the only child of middle-class parents. He began writing at seven to amuse himself. His richly irreverent memories of family life are recalled in an interview with Ray Connolly. Page 35

## London to Peking

Next month 70 vehicles set out from London to drive to China, inspired by the Peking-Paris race of 83 years ago. Among the overlanders will be Graham Rock, representing *The Times* in a Mercedes 300SE. Page 37

## TRAVEL

## Into Africa

Michael Watkins went to South Africa to catch the rhythm of the wild. He discovered that everything had changed — and nothing had changed. Page 39

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# 60 TO 0 IN 3 SECONDS. IS THERE NO STOPPING PORSCHÉ ENGINEERS?

Imagine for a moment that you are hurtling down the Mulsanne straight at Le Mans in a Porsche 962, at a speed approaching 240 mph.

(Depending on your disposition, this is either a dream come true or a nightmare.)

At the end of the 6 kilometre straight is a sharp and bumpy right-hander, which is coming at you with the speed of a door slamming you in the face.

Your fate, as you approach the infamous corner, is no longer in your hands.

It rests with some rather academic-looking men miles away in Germany.

At the Porsche Research and Development Centre in Weissach, to be precise.

In what seems like a split second, the car's speed has been reduced from 240 mph to 50 mph.

Suddenly, you have rounded the corner with consummate ease and accelerated into the night.

3.7 minutes later, you will repeat the whole episode. If you finish Le Mans (which Porsches usually do) you will complete the exercise over 350 times during the twenty-four gruelling hours of the race.

And as you bathe in the glory of yet another success, those Porsche engineers from Weissach will have already begun the painstaking process of examining every component of the car.

Most importantly, the brakes.

For with the ability to produce the awesome power of a Porsche goes the responsibility of harnessing it safely.

Which is particularly true of the Porsche in our picture, the 944 Turbo.

Its 2.5-litre, 250 bhp engine makes it one of the most powerful production cars of its kind ever built.

It is quite capable of reaching 161 mph, accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in 5.6 seconds\* in the process.

In fact, such is the respect afforded the engine by Porsche engineers, it has a braking system derived from Porsche's racing prototypes.

Thus to restrain the 944 Turbo, four piston fixed caliper disc brakes are fitted to all four wheels as part of a hydraulic, front to rear dual circuit system.

(If that sounds highly sophisticated, rest assured, it is.)

Naturally, though, Porsche engineers didn't stop there.

The Turbo has a specially developed ABS system which can increase, hold or reduce braking pressure depending on how much each tyre is in contact with the road.

So that if, for instance, an animal appears in your headlights while driving on a motorway at night, you can 'floor' the brake pedal without fear of skidding, even in the wet.

And because brakes become less efficient at very high temperatures, the Turbo's body

design incorporates inlets in the nose section which 'ram' cooling air at them.

Stopping a Porsche safely, however, is not left solely to the brakes.

To create a better balanced, more stable car, our good engineers decided to break with tradition and mount the gearbox in the rear. Known as the Transaxle drive line system, it gives the Turbo virtually perfect weight distribution.

The power steering is also involved.

Unlike other systems which simply make the steering feel artificially light, Porsche power assistance adjusts the amount of power you receive to how much the car actually needs, giving you complete control at all times.

To make sure the driver doesn't feel left out of this engineering tour de force, a sophisticated electronic dashboard information system keeps you in touch with all the engine's primary functions.

944 TURBO

Of course, helping you control your Porsche is only one of the joys of being a Porsche engineer.

Talk to them about the smoothness of the Turbo's engine and they will wax lyrical about the lack of vibration courtesy of the dual balancer shafts.

Approach them on the subject of its performance and they will give you chapter and verse on the racing pedigree of the engine and the fact that even the catalytic converter does not affect the enormous power output.

Casually enquire about the stability of the Turbo and they will bend your ear concerning the new rear spoiler, the low profile tyres, the limited slip differential and the famous 'ground effect' technology, which uses air flow under the car to reduce lift at high speeds.

Indeed, give them a chance and Porsche engineers will go on for hours about their job.

Which is only to be expected.

After all, for years they have designed cars that have served as examples of technical excellence to every car maker in the world.

The 944 Turbo is but one example. The 911 Carrera 4 all-wheel drive is another. The 5-speed 928 GT, yet another.

Is there no stopping Porsche engineers? What do you think?

To see a 944 Turbo stopped in its tracks, contact your local Official Porsche Centre listed in Yellow Pages.

For further information on the 944 Turbo, Diplomatic Sales or tax exempt personal exports, contact Customer Relations, Porsche Cars Great Britain, Freeport, Reading RG1 1BR. Tel: 0734 323959. Fax: 0734 303713. Telex: 846465. Porsche 944 Turbo price at 1st January 1990 £42,296. \*Car Magazine.

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PORSCHE

DRIVING IN ITS PUREST FORM

Poll to  
for ci  
people

Baron said  
he would  
not defraud  
his friend

By a Daily Mail

Baroness Williams of Craigavon, who was accused of defrauding her friend, Lord Williams of Craigavon, has said she would not defraud her friend. The Baroness, who was accused of defrauding her friend, Lord Williams of Craigavon, has said she would not defraud her friend. The Baroness, who was accused of defrauding her friend, Lord Williams of Craigavon, has said she would not defraud her friend.

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£6bn Kir

British Rail has said it will not pay £6bn for the privatisation of the railway. The company has said it will not pay £6bn for the privatisation of the railway. The company has said it will not pay £6bn for the privatisation of the railway.



# Poll tax blamed for cuts in old people's services

Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

One in three local authority social services departments has had to cut services, stop new developments or impose charges as a result of the poll tax, according to a survey published yesterday. Services for the elderly have borne the brunt of the cuts, and some children's homes have closed.

The report from the Association of Directors of Social Services also says that three-quarters of councils will not have enough money to implement the Government's community care policy, under which they will take financial responsibility for the care of the elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped in the community from next year.

That is partly because of the continuing effects of the poll tax, and partly because the Government has not allocated a specific grant for such care, the report says.

The Department of Health was yesterday said to be furious about the report. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, said it was alarmist and would cause unnecessary worry to the frail and vulnerable who stood to benefit from their policies. "We have made it clear that extra resources will be available," she said. The amount to be transferred from the social security budget would be announced later this spring.

Directors said that social services had been told to make significant reductions in their budgets because councils were under pressure to keep the poll tax down. More swinging cuts would undoubtedly follow if the Government capped the community charge. A number of shire

counties said that they were reluctant to go ahead at all with spending plans until they knew if "charge capping" would take place.

The survey, conducted jointly with BBC Radio among two-thirds of English and Welsh social services departments, showed that 36 per cent of councils had made cuts or stopped new projects because of the poll tax.

Mr Bob Lewis, honorary secretary of the association, said: "Local authority services are being jeopardized because of the pressure on local authority finance due to the poll tax. This means they need to reduce or, at best, only maintain levels of services against a background of increasing demand."

Warwickshire County Council has reduced its overall budget by £6 million, and its social services department has had to save £635,000. The average poll tax for the county's five districts is nevertheless £378.16, against the Government's estimate of £299.43.

Mr Peter Smallbridge, the social services director, said that to prevent damaging cuts in services, the authority was to charge £1 a week for home help and £1 for a day centre meal, irrespective of income. Those not on income support or housing benefit will have to pay £4.75 a week for a home help — a service which costs the council £5.60 an hour.

In Newcastle, eight homes for the elderly and six children's homes have closed and a further 150 places for the elderly are to be cut this year in an attempt to keep the poll tax down. This has been set at

£390 against the government estimate of £328.

Mr David Johnstone, Newcastle assistant director of social services, said that his department expects to spend £36 million, £9 million more than the Department of Environment's assessment of what it should spend. "The government assessment is Alice in Wonderland stuff. It is ludicrous," he said. "If we tailored our services to the levels proposed we would not have a service."

The survey shows that 79 per cent of social services departments have set a budget higher than the government assessment.

Mr John Rea Price, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said: "Local authorities seem to be predicting a spiral of rising expectations which we cannot meet without adequate financial back up."

He added that authorities were also cutting services to put money aside for the changes to come into effect in April next year. Councils still did not know how much government money they would get to fund the community care policy. Some is to come from the social security budget, while the rest will be allocated through block grants or raised through the poll tax.

"This is a worrying picture. Many authorities say they are reducing their existing budget to scrape together sufficient cash to fund community care," Mr Rea Price said. "So, without adequate central government assistance, next year's community care will be paid for by cuts in this year's community care."

# Czechs salute the 'forgotten heroes'



Czech war veterans gathered at Brookwood cemetery, Surrey, yesterday to honour countrymen who fought and died in World War Two. President Havel of Czechoslovakia, ending a three-day visit to Britain, laid wreaths on the graves of servicemen and said they were "forgotten heroes". *Play dispute, page 9.*

# Cancer centre failings 'mean needless deaths'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Several thousand people are probably dying unnecessarily from cancer every year in Britain because treatment services are so badly organized, a leading cancer specialist said yesterday.

Professor Karol Sikora, consultant medical oncologist and radiologist at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, said that a survey presented a disturbing picture of the variation in quality of cancer treatment facilities in many parts of the country.

He recommended that the present cancer treatment centres in 23 hospital departments in London be reorganized into 10 centres of excellence. He also called for an urgent medical audit showing the pattern of cancer survival rates so that patients could see how survival rates varied between hospitals.

"Certain hospitals are more poorly equipped for cancer treatment than many in the Third World," Professor Sikora said.

He said they included some well-known London teaching

hospitals. His survey lists 14 specialities and types of equipment essential for "a centre of excellence for cancer treatment" and shows the number of hospitals in which one or more of those facilities is absent.

He said: "Information on cancer survival rates will allow the comparison between the successful treatment of patients with the same type of tumour at different centres. A national computerized database should be established to allow this data to be collated in a similar manner to that which currently exists for children's cancer."

Professor Sikora was launching a report entitled *Caring for Cancer* at the Royal College of Physicians, London, prepared as part of a £5 million appeal needed for a £13 million centre at Hammersmith Hospital.

He said: "It is a well-known fact that one in three people will get cancer and one in four will die from it."

What was less well-known, however, was that the chances

of a child with leukaemia, lymphoma or bone cancer being cured depended heavily on where the treatment was given; that deaths due to complications of chemotherapy given to cure testicular cancer in young men were twice as common in some hospitals as in others; and that more than half the children treated for kidney cancer outside special centres were given unnecessary drugs and radiation.

Professor Sikora said that of the three types of cancer treatment — by surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy — that was the least portable. A radiotherapy department now cost £10 million to establish and £1 million to run.

He said: "The NHS spends £500 million a year on this very common illness. Getting the best from it must be a priority for everyone. The organization of cancer service in the UK has grown up in a haphazard manner and the standards of cancer care across the country vary enormously."

# Hidden diabetes warning

By Kerry Gill

The incidence of diabetes is expected to increase as the population becomes older, a consultant told the British Diabetic Association conference in Glasgow yesterday.

Dr Kenneth Paterson, of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, said that an estimated 750,000 people suffered from the disease in Britain, but it was feared that at least another 250,000 may also be affected.

While insulin-dependent diabetes was most common among younger people and

obvious symptoms made diagnosis comparatively simple, many older people suffered a gradual rise in blood-sugar levels and the disease could go undetected for years.

Dr Paterson said no-one was quite sure what caused diabetes, but it appeared to be on the increase. "The disease is common in older people, and, as the population ages, the incidence will rise," he said. "Older people get mild diabetes, but it is only mild in the sense that there are no

obvious symptoms. It can creep up on people, leading to nerve and kidney damage."

Dr Paterson highlighted the mystery of why diabetes was more common in northern countries, a characteristic shared with multiple sclerosis.

"It is far more common in Scotland and Scandinavia than in, for example, Mediterranean countries," he said. "The incidence decreases the nearer you get to the Equator, which is the reverse of most diseases."

# Baron said he would not defraud his friend

By Craig Seton

Baron Michael de Stempel denied at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that he had conspired with his former wife to strip her aunt, Lady Illingworth, of her estimated £1 million estate.

The baron, aged 60, told the court: "I would not dream of doing anything of that sort, particularly to an old woman who was my friend. I would have thought it was the most appalling thing to do."

The baron was in the witness box for the first time at the start of his defence. He is accused of conspiring to steal property from Lady Illingworth, the widow of Baron Illingworth of Denton. Accused with him are Mr Marcus Wilberforce, and his sister Miss Sophia Wilberforce, children of his former wife, Baroness St. John de Stempel.

The baroness has admitted charges of forgery and theft of property belonging to Lady Illingworth, who died in 1986. The prosecution has alleged that Lady Illingworth, who was said to be senile, was systematically stripped of her wealth in a conspiracy which began in 1984.

The baron denied that sums of £20,000 and £18,000 that he had received from the baroness in 1984 were his "reward" for helping the baroness defraud her aunt.

Mr Richard Du Cann QC, defending, asked the baron whether it was right that he had assisted the baroness to knowingly strip Lady Illingworth of every penny she had. The baron said: "Most certainly not. I would not dream of doing anything of that sort, particularly to an old woman who was my friend."

He was then asked whether he dishonestly conspired with the baroness and her two children to defraud Lady Illingworth and replied: "Absolutely not. It would not even have entered my head."

The trial continues.

# Magistrate's fury over prosecution

A magistrate was so angered by the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday that he threw paper from his bench as he attacked the service's "appalling record".

Mr Roger Davies, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court in London, said: "Since the arrival of the CPS everything is going backwards and backwards."

Nobody was prepared to accept responsibility when things went wrong, he said. Mr Davies became angry when he was handed a photocopied sheet of paper bearing handwritten details of a shoplifter's previous convictions.

He asked the prosecuting lawyer, Miss Portia Ragnauth: "Why isn't there a proper form? It's quite disgraceful." Then, he held the sheet out in front of him before throwing it over his bench on to his clerk's desk, shouting: "Look at that! I'm not looking at it!" and told Miss Ragnauth: "You can't present that to the court!" Miss Ragnauth offered to

read the details out aloud, then admitted that the record was incomplete.

Asked why, she replied that she did not know, further angering Mr Davies, who said: "Everybody passes the buck to everybody else. We don't know who to blame. It's quite disgraceful." He said the last conviction, for which Martin Langridge had been put on probation, was the most important.

He then fined Langridge, aged 24, of Forest Gate, east London, £50 with £15 costs for stealing four cans of lager from an off-licence.

Earlier, Mr Davies had thrown out another case after the defendant complained that he had appeared in court 12 times to answer charges of stealing a handbag and handling a stolen chequebook.

Miss Ragnauth asked for another week's remand to replace a missing witness statement, but Mr Davies said: "Enough is enough" and discharged Gary Mills, aged 22, of Hornchurch, Essex.

# Football chief loses case

Mr Robert Murray, chairman of Sunderland Football Club, lost his High Court libel and slander action yesterday against Mr Barry Batey, a former director of the club, over comments at a press conference which Mr Murray said, he was a liar.

The jury took 2½ hours to decide that Mr Batey did not defame Mr Murray at a press conference in March 1987.

During the hearing, Mr Murray claimed that Mr Batey had deliberately tried to discredit him so that he could gain the chairmanship.

Mr Batey, aged 42, an estate agent, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, said the words he used were "really quite innocuous" and did not bear the meanings alleged by Mr Murray.

Mr Batey's claim that Mr Murray had put money from

The Spring Ram Corporation, a kitchen and bathroom company of which he is vice-chairman, into the club, rather than his own money, was published in *The Journal*, Newcastle, the day after the press conference.

Another allegation, which was not reported, was that Mr Murray was party to a secret shares issue.

Mr Murray, aged 43, of Clayke, Yorkshire, had dismissed both as lies. He claimed that Mr Batey, who was removed as a director the same month as the press conference, was motivated by spite and ill-will to discredit him so that he could take his place on the board.

Mr Batey said he was not malicious and so was protected by qualified privilege.

Mr Batey's counsel said that he may have been "obstruc-

tive" and "difficult" but he always acted in the interests of the club he loved.

Later Mr Murray, who now faces a costs bill estimated at £100,000, said: "The purpose of this action was to clear my name of any allegation that I had used company money rather than my personal money to support the club."

"The judge ruled that Mr Batey was protected by legal privilege. My lawyers disagree and are considering an appeal on that and other matters."

"I am pleased that it was conceded by everybody that my massive financial commitment to the football club has been made with my personal money not company money."

"It should be remembered that the newspaper which published the allegation has paid damages and costs and apologized," he said.

# Dominant Karpov needs just a point

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet former world chess champion, has won the eighth game of his world title eliminator in Kuala Lumpur against Jan Timman, the Dutch Grandmaster.

He now has an overwhelming lead of 5½ points against 2½ and needs just one more point from the last four games to qualify for a championship match against Gary Kasparov, the reigning champion, later this year. The title contest has been set to start in New York on October 7.

Karpov was always in control in the eighth game. He rebuffed Timman's over-ambitious counter-attack and, in a dramatic finale, beat the Dutch Grandmaster by capturing all of his pawns and chasing his king right across the board.

Timman resigned in a hopeless situation on the 38th move. Karpov has dominated this match and has rarely been in trouble. In some of the games he overlooked wins.

Here are the moves of the eighth game, with Karpov playing white.

1 d4	Nf6	20 Qe4	Rc7
2 c4	e6	21 Kg2	a6
3 Nc3	b6	22 Bc2	Rb8
4 g3	Bb7	23 Bxb3	cxb3
5 Bg2	Qd7	24 Qc1	Bc7
6 Nf3	Bd6	25 a3	b5
7 Bb2	Bb7	26 Nd3	b4
8 Kf1	Nd7	27 Qd2	Bc5
9 Nxc4	Qc6	28 Bc2	a5
10 Bb3	O-O	29 Ng4	Rc7
11 Bb2	b5	30 Na5	Nxa5
12 Ne3	Bb7	31 Rxb5	Rxb5
13 Qc2	Qb6	32 Qd3	Kc7
14 Nf3	Nf6	33 Kd3	Bb6
15 Na5	Bc7	34 Rb3	Qc2
16 N3g4	Ng4	35 Qh7	Kf8
17 Nxf4	Nd7	36 Qx7	Kd7
18 Rf1	a5	37 Qc7	Black resigns

# £6bn King's Cross plan in jeopardy

British Rail said yesterday that its £6 billion plan to turn derelict land at King's Cross in London into "the largest city-centre development site in Western Europe" was in jeopardy after a High Court ruling giving St Bartholomew's Hospital the right to buy back a section of the site at 19th century prices.

Confirming that it will appeal against the decision, BR Property Board said: "We now have cause for concern." Norman Foster Associates, the leading architects, had drawn up British Rail's plans, incorporating the world's biggest underground station, and it had been relying on planning permission to multiply the value of the land around King's Cross and to finance its share of the rebuilding costs.

British Rail added that if the Court of Appeal upholds the High Court ruling to allow the hospital's trustees to buy back 43 acres of the site, which had been subject to compulsory purchase, at the 1850 sale price of £53,250, it would have serious implications for the financial

structuring of the project. It is estimated that the land could now be worth £100 million to the hospital.

"We and our partners have been working on the assumption that all 134 acres would form part of the development," Mr David Burridge, British Rail manager of public affairs, said.

Many land deals in the first half of the 19th century included a covenant giving the vendor the right to reacquire the site at cost price if the property ceased to be used as a railway. Since 1966 British Rail has netted more than £500 million from sales of 100,000 acres of disused land, and has never been challenged by the heirs to a former owner.

Mr Andrew Campbell, the solicitor co-ordinating the legal battle on behalf of St Bartholomew's Hospital, played down the multi-million pound windfall. While he was not prepared to speculate on the prospect of an appeal, he would not rule out the possibility of St Bartholomew's fighting the British Railways Board all the way to the House of Lords if

necessary. "We are probably at the outset rather than at the stage of finality."

Mr Justice Hoffman made a similar ruling on behalf of the Church Commissioners who were also forced to sell a nine-acre tract of land at the same time. The ruling was based on a section of the 1846 Great Northern Railways Act which carried the proviso that, should it no longer be required for railway use, land must revert to its former owners at the original purchase price.

The British Railways Board has argued that the proviso had expired many years ago or had been repealed. Mr Campbell would not disclose how the loophole was brought to light.

St Bartholomew's and the Church Commissioners have already been awarded costs estimated at £200,000 against the British Railways Board, subject to stay of execution pending resolution of a probable appeal.

The Church Commissioners said last night it was too early to make further comment.

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# As Labour celebrates 21% swing, doubt on repeat win

## Seat is on loan for two years, loser says

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

If the 21 per cent swing from Labour to Conservative at Mid Staffordshire were to be repeated nationally at the next election every single member of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet save Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would lose his seat.

Of course it will not be repeated on that scale. By-elections in recent years have seen increasingly violent fluctuations.

All three of Labour's previous by-election gains from the Conservatives since 1970 have been reversed at the next general election. So the ports are, as the Conservative candidate, Mr Charles Prior, said at the Mid Staffordshire count, that Mrs Sylvia Heal has the seat on loan for two years rather than for life.

But Conservative efforts yesterday to dismiss the result as a protest vote beg the point. Senior Conservatives are taking comfort from the MORI poll evidence that the 42 per cent of those voting Labour in Mid Staffordshire because they believed in its policies were nearly matched by the 40 per cent who said they were voting Labour as a protest against the Government.

But even in general elections people do not all vote for a party: many still vote in protest against a party they wish to see defeated.

Previously under Mrs Thatcher, with the exception of the 10.4 per cent swing at Fulham in 1986 (the Conservatives regained the seat in 1987) only the Alliance centre parties have proved capable of benefiting from the by-election protest vote on a large scale.

Now Labour, for the first time since the Second World War, has joined the 20 per cent plus club capable of upsetting almost any Tory seat in the country. Votes which have gone all the way across to

a main party rival may be hard to bring back.

Perhaps the key finding of the ITN Harris exit poll among Mid Staffordshire voters was that 54 per cent took the view that Labour had really changed its political nature, 37 per cent said that it appeared to have done so and only 7 per cent said that Labour had not really changed.

Mid Staffordshire, after the Vale of Glamorgan contest last year, offered real evidence that Labour's policy review, designed to make the party safe for the return of Social Democrats, has given Mr Neil Kinnock's party a new degree of electability.

Mid Staffordshire was only the fifth seat Labour has gained from the Conservatives since the early 1960s. Others were the Vale of Glamorgan (last year), Fulham (1986), Birmingham Northfield (1982) and Bromsgrove (1971).

Only in 10 by-elections since the Second World War has Labour achieved a swing of more than 10 per cent from the Conservatives. The previous biggest was Hayes and Harlington in 1971.

Labour's 24.8 per cent increase in its share of the vote at Mid Staffordshire is more than twice the increase it achieved at any by-election in the last Parliament. It is 10 per cent more than it achieved at its previous gain in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It is the first time since the Second World War that Labour has achieved a swing of more than 20 per cent.

But before Labour supporters build their hopes too high after the successful campaign in Mid Staffordshire it has to be said that by-election successes do not always lead on to general election repeats.

The 1966-70 Labour government regained nine of the 15 seats it lost at by-elections.

### MID STAFFORDSHIRE RESULT

S L Heal (Lab)	27,849	Total vote: 57,357
C L Prior (C)	18,200	Swing to Lab from C: 21.3%
T A Jones (Lib/Dem)	8,315	
I W Wood (SDP)	1,422	
R Saunders (Greens)	1,215	
J G Bazeley (Anti-Thatcher Con)	547	
Lord D Smith (Monster Raving Loony Green Team)	336	
G J Hill (NP)	311	
C A Abel (NHS Supporters)	102	
N Parker-Jervis (Against Immigration Con Green)	59	
S B Hughes (Raving Loony Gm Supercatragradistic)	59	
L St C Love (National Independent Correct Education)	41	
B R A Midwater (Common known as Smiley - (save the 2CV)	52	
D M Black (Christian Patriotic Alliance Save British Campaign)	29	
Lab majority 9,449.		
Turnout: 77.5%.		
Share of the vote	1980	1987
Labour	48.1% (+24.4%)	24.7% (+2.5%)
Conservative	32.1% (-18.3%)	50.5% (-1.4%)
Liberal Democrat	11.2% (-12.0%)	23.5% (-2.5%)
SDP	2.5%	
Green	2.2%	

1987: J Heddle (C) 26,644; C St Hill (Lab) 13,990; T Jones (Lib) 13,114; J Bazeley (Ind C) 836. Maj: 14,654.



Night of the red rose: Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour victor, acknowledging cheers from party supporters after her landslide win early yesterday.

## Keeping quiet kept opponents guessing

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Correspondent

Mr Charles Prior, the luckiest Tory candidate in the Mid Staffordshire by-election, rather gave the game away in the final days of his campaign when he spoke of the "frustration" of grappling with an opponent who kept her public utterances to a minimum.

Thus she had allowed few opportunities for either her personal opinions or her party's policies to be exposed to scrutiny.

Hecklers were made redundant as Mrs Sylvia Heal abandoned public meetings for "private engagements" in pubs and social clubs and her morning press conferences were brief, tightly managed affairs giving the media little chance of wrong-footing her.

Instead, she stuck to a carefully-prepared script, which usually consisted of an attack on Conservative policy coupled with relatively anodyne Labour pledges.

Attempts to lead her into uncharted waters were dealt with either with a reference back to Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, or the intervention of the visiting frontbencher or her minder, Mr Bruce Groom.

It was magnificent, but it wasn't really politics. At least, that is what her opponents thought as they hunted a will-o'-the-wisp, who had the added advantage of resembling more the headmistress of an exclusive private school than the dumpy, dressed in a suit, woman in the street.

In the event, they were reduced to the vain strategy of flinging insults at her which, as a former social worker, she deflected more in sorrow than in anger.

## Victor's campaign truck takes to streets after longest night

By Ruth Gledhill

Only the stony expression on the face of Dr Johnson in the Lichfield market square in the former Tory stronghold in Mid Staffordshire remained unchanged as voters woke up to see Mrs Sylvia Heal, their new Labour MP, touring the streets in her bright yellow campaign truck, festooned with victory balloons.

Some looked bemused, some astonished but the larger number cheered and waved her on her way.

The woman who went into the campaign optimistic of reducing the Tory majority and increasing local Labour party membership almost let her emotions get the better of her as she contemplated a result which left her Tory rival bitterly disappointed.

Mrs Heal, aged 47, a magistrate and mother of two teenagers has kept consistently calm during the campaign which has led opponents to describe her as a "Barbie doll", a "phantom in a vacuum" and of having taken a "trappist vow of silence".

However Mrs Heal regarded the shift to personal attacks, about a week ago, as a sign that her opponents were under pressure.

Some of the 14 contenders ranged from hopeless to the bizarre. They included candidates from the Save the 2CV party (42 votes), the National Independent Education Party (51 votes) and Stewart Hughes of the Raving Loony Green Supercatragradistic Party (59), who sang the song from the film *Mary Poppins* on which the name was based, on the rostrum. He admitted defeat and pledged to fight another election.

For the first time in three weeks Mid Staffordshire streets were free of competing loud speakers, posters and frenetic campaigners.

"Presumably they did not feel it necessary to congratulate our electorate on our defeat," Mr Peter Snape Labour MP for West Bromwich East, said. He had confidently announced Mrs Heal as the victor early yesterday morning, three hours before the end of the count.

Mr Snape was celebrating his own victory in the Labour sweepstakes on the size of the majority. He was 350 votes out on his guess.

In the yellow truck, dubbed "Rosie" by the Labour party and the Heal mobile by the press, Mr Snape and Mrs Heal sped round the constituency on the coat tails of election fever, greeted by drivers tooting horns, mothers and children waving and ambulance men who turned out from their stations to cheer.

Mrs Heal, dressed in navy blue with a red jacket and a fresh red rose in her lapel, refused to admit to fatigue, although she had only two hours sleep. "How could I

look tired after such a victory?" she told one constituent who described her as "the best thing that had ever happened to this country." Her husband Keith, a personnel manager for a software company, who took two weeks holiday, to support her in the campaign, described the victory as "equivalent to Wales beating the All Blacks".

He said: "I feel very proud of the work she's put in. It's been a tremendous achievement for the Labour Party."

He said he and his wife will live in the constituency but their children will stay in Surrey to complete their education.

Mrs Heal criticised Mr Charles Prior, the Tory candidate, for what she described as a "vitriolic" outburst after the declaration of his defeat.

"He was not a very good loser," Mr Prior thinks I have the seat for just two years. But with the majority of nearly 10,000, I think I'm here for much longer than that. We

have never before had a victory like this." Mr Prior had lashed out from the rostrum, on learning of his defeat at 3.30am yesterday morning. "The Labour party is a sham party with no policies at all."

"At the next general election we will win Mid Staffordshire. We will expose their defeat. And no longer will the Labour Party be in existence in this constituency. This constituency has been lent to them for the next two years."

While Mrs Heal savoured her win, the Tories held a subdued press conference at the Cedar Tree Hotel near Lichfield.

Mr Prior arrived to find that the rostrum from which he has expanded his policies for the past three weeks had been dismantled and his table folded beneath a pile of party "streets ahead" posters.

He said: "Clearly I am disappointed. But this constituency will be won back at the next general election. Labour won because of the protest vote, not because the people of Mid Staffs want a return to socialism."

"What might have helped me more was if the Labour party had dared expose their policies. They will not get away with not doing that in the general election."

He said he sees no reason to abandon the "streets ahead" slogan.

"We are still streets ahead on policies."

The neighbouring Tory MP, Mr Gerald Howarth, for Cannock and Burntwood said: "It is goodbye from me, and it is goodbye from him."

● In a town council by-election at Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd, yesterday, Mrs Joan Toe, the Conservative candidate, received just two votes. The ward seat was won by Mr Ken Stevens for Labour with 201 votes.

### BY-ELECTIONS BETWEEN 1983-87

Date	Place	Con	Lab	All	Result
28.7.83	Pewsey & Border	-12.8	-5.8	+18.7	Con Hold
1.8.84	Chesham	-17.3	-1.5	+15.8	Lab Hold
3.5.84	Surrey SW	-10.4	-1.5	+11.9	Con Hold
3.5.84	Stafford	-10.8	+3.7	+7.1	Con Hold
3.5.84	Cymon Valley	-5.5	+2.5	-0.7	Lab Hold
14.5.84	Portsmouth Sth	-15.7	+3.9	+12.2	SDP Gain
13.12.84	Southgate	-8.5	-5.9	+12.2	Con Hold
4.7.85	Bracon & Radnor	-20.5	+9.3	+11.4	Lib Gain
8.12.85	Tyne Bridge	-14.2	+1.3	+11.4	Lab Hold
10.4.86	St Albans	-11.3	+10.4	+1.9	Lab Gain
8.5.86	Ryedale	-17.9	-1.9	+19.8	Lib Gain
8.5.86	Derbyshire West	-16.3	+2.7	+12.3	Con Hold
17.7.86	Newcastle U Lyme	-17.4	-1.2	+17.2	Lab Hold
13.11.86	Newcastle Nth	-15.8	-3.2	+19.8	Lab Hold
22.8.87	Greenwich	-23.6	+2.8	+27.8	SDP Gain
12.8.87	Truro	-8.5	+2.8	+1.3	Lib Hold

### BY-ELECTIONS FROM 1987

Date	Place	Con	Lab	All	PC/SDP	Green
14.7.88	Kensington	-6.9	+4.9	-1.4		+0.7
10.11.88	Gower	-4.2	-3.2	+7.4	+38.4	+1.2
15.12.88	Epping Forest	-21.5	+0.4	+18.8		+0.7
22.2.89	Portsmouth	-6.0	-2.9	+11.9	+20.0	
22.2.89	Richmond	-94.0	-8.9	+97.2		+2.8
14.4.89	V of Glamorgan	-10.5	+14.2	+11.9		+2.0
15.6.89	Glasgow Crib	-5.4	-3.9	-0.0	+20.2	+4.8
15.6.89	Vaudhall	-10.2	+2.5	-0.7		+2.3
22.9.90	Mid Staffs	-18.3	+24.4	-12.0		+2.1

\* Did not stand at previous election

March 23 1990

## PARLIAMENT

## Railway sell-off 'pure dogma'

The Government's proposal to privatise British Rail was dismissed by a Conservative MP as "pure political dogma" when he opened a debate on transport.

Mr Robert Adley (Chesham, Ch) told MPs that he could not see the purpose of railway privatisation "other than pure political dogma and that is not good enough as far as I am concerned."

The use of the word "competition" in relation to privatisation was nonsense and an unreal proposition, he said.

MPs from both sides were critical of the Government's approach to British Rail and called for greater investment.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Public Transport, defending the Government's record, said that its investment policy had been even-handed between road and rail.

The record, he said, showed a determined commitment to providing the finance necessary for the transport of this country.

Opening the debate, Mr Adley said that in the past 10 years there had been great economic success, resulting in an enormous increase of road traffic. Simultaneously, there had been a growth of environmental concern and a recognition that the internal combustion engine, a major source of pollution, congestion and aggression, could not be the only solution for individuals or to the country's transport policies.

Nobody expected the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health or the Foreign Office to show a profit. Almost alone, this Government and its predecessors expected British Rail to operate as though it was a normal commercial organization. That proposition was fundamentally flawed.

Investment criteria for British Rail must be related to commercial reality. It must be more closely related to environmental and social needs. Without a

railway system in the main cities, life would be intolerable. Every day, British Rail carried 500,000 passengers into London in the morning peak, but the more people that BR succeeded in attracting to its commuter peak services, the more it was required to generate its own capital investment for capital equipment which was used for only four hours each day.

No normal commercial business could leave expensive equipment idle for 20 hours out of 24. It was wrong to equate investment in the railways with normal commercial investment in business and industry. "The railways are a vital part of our nation's infrastructure and should be seen and dealt with as such."

To suggest that there was merely a coincidence of timing between the reduction of the public service obligation grant and the increasing incidence of late arrivals, shorter trains, service cuts, staff shortages and unmanned stations was to stretch credulity to breaking point.

There ought also to be an independent regulator between the Government and British Rail which could check BR's performance and fare levels. This would help concentrate the minds of the warring parties.

A system was needed whereby costs of road and rail were assessed equally and funded equally by the state.

Sir Philip Goodhart (Berkhamstead, C) said news that 92 per cent of all Network SouthEast trains arrived on time, and that 98.6 per cent of them ran at all, had been greeted with disbelief and hilarity.

Mrs Joan Radlock, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that many doubted the strength of the Government's commitment to maintain the existing rail network.

Women were fearful of using unstaffed stations at night. That was totally unacceptable in a civilized country.

Was it to be assumed that the staff who provided help and information to passengers and provided women with a greater sense of personal security were to be regarded as just another loss-making service?

In France, trains would approach the Channel tunnel at speeds of up to 180 miles an hour with passengers enjoying a high standard of comfort. On the British side, it would be a very different story.

The Government had ignored a warning 15 months ago that the private sector would not come up with the cash to build a new high speed rail link to London without support.

Now it looked as if the Government would have to do an embarrassing U-turn and find £700 million if the Eurostar project was not to collapse.

The new safety culture at London Underground seemed

sadly deficient when a driver could drive his train the wrong way down the track and when a push chair with a child in it could be trapped in the doors and dragged along the platform.

Mr Portillo said that there was investment and not stagnation on BR.

British Rail had written off around £1.1 billion since the 1960s so it was a bit much to suggest that it should be responsible for its own financing.

Grants made to the railway came from taxpayers, the property for generating receipts was owned by taxpayers, loans made to the railway were made by taxpayers at subsidized rates, and the revenue of the railways was based on assets owned by taxpayers.

The Government had provided for a £3.7 billion investment programme for British Rail to be established, and a £2.2 billion investment programme for London Regional Transport. It was spending as much per head on public transport as on the roads.

The Docklands Light Railway had been built and extensions were under way. The Government had also planned the extension of the Jubilee Line, the biggest project of its kind for 25 years, and plans for a rail link under London were under consideration.

In addition £6 million had gone to Sheffield for its supertram project and an enormous grant had been made for the Manchester metro extension.

"This is the record of a Government which is even-handed between road and rail and which has shown a determined commitment to providing the finance necessary for the transport of this country."

● The Government is seeking advice on how people living near railway lines can be offered insulation against increased noise levels, Mr Portillo announced in a written reply.



Mr Adley: Competition for BR an unreal proposition.

## In-house ambulance bids win contracts

By Kerry Gill

The first contracts to provide a non-emergency private ambulance service in Scotland have been won by in-house bids in Stirling and Lanarkshire, it emerged last night.

The Government decided to increase privatization in the service because of the recent strike. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, made it clear that apart from introducing more paramedics, there should be more privatization in an attempt to release funds for emergency work.

The success of local ambulance crews in winning the contracts will not only allay fears that the services would go to outside interests, but will mean extra money being ploughed into the Scottish Ambulance Service where privatization takes place.

Effectively, companies will be established to provide services ranging from radio-paging to mini-ambulances.

## Bones found

Police are seeking the previous owners of a house in Stafford after the bones of four premature stillborn babies were found hidden in a tea chest in the garage by the present owners yesterday. Police said it was not a murder hunt. The house was sold 2½ years ago.

## Body returned

The body of Mr Faraz Bazoof, *The Observer* reporter executed by Iran on a charge of spying, arrived in Britain yesterday on an Iraqi aircraft. A memorial service for him will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, in London next Wednesday.

## Victim's funeral

Hundreds of mourners yesterday packed the Holy Family Church, Mossend, Strathclyde, for the funeral of Mr Thomas McIntyre, aged 19, a student teacher shot in a Glasgow street last Sunday when he went to help a woman knocked down by a Land Rover driven by Alan Parkhill, aged 24, who later fatally wounded himself.

## Dismissal deal

Wakefield Health Authority yesterday withdrew its disciplinary action against its finance director, Mr Raymond Corner, who was dismissed over his claims that funds were being wasted. He in turn agreed that the High Court in Middlesbrough to resign his £23,000-a-year post.

## Rape acquittal

Oliver Rudd, a former Army captain accused of raping a woman after a romantic dinner at his home in Enfield, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, 10 days after a jury failed to reach a verdict. The prosecution said it would not seek a retrial.

## Clocks forward

British Summer Time begins at 1am Greenwich Mean Time tomorrow when clocks should be put forward an hour to 2am.

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## Teachers blamed as working week rises to 51 hours

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Teachers have only themselves to blame for much of the increased classroom workload which has led to staff working an average of 51 hours a week, the Government said yesterday.

The Department of Education and Science said that many of the new tasks being imposed on teachers were the result of schools and local authorities "jumping the gun" by attempting to pre-empt the introduction of the National Curriculum.

Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, has urged teachers not to panic but to await the publication of official assessment procedures.

Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools have shown that some teachers had drawn up huge "check sheets" on which they were attempting to assess pupils against the requirements of the new curriculum by ticking boxes.

Official testing and assessment measures for the new curriculum are still at the pilot stage. The national system is not due to come into use until next year.

The renewed appeal for

calm came after the publication of a survey conducted by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers which found that teachers are working almost twice as long as their contracts demanded.

It showed that teachers were putting in an average of 51.17 hours, well above the 32.44 hours specified in the contracts imposed on the profession by the Government at the end of a two-year pay dispute in 1987.

The survey, which covered 550 teachers in 59 of the 96 English education authority areas, found that teaching accounted for less than half of the working week of the average teacher.

Non-teaching activities took up 56 per cent of the time, most of which (36 per cent of the working week) was devoted to marking and administrative work.

Staff meetings, which have greatly increased in number in recent years, accounted for almost two hours a week, while an hour a week was given over to meeting parents.

In spite of reports of a decline in teachers' willing-

ness to undertake extra-curricular activities, the survey found that the average teacher spent an hour and a half a week organizing sport or drama after school.

Primary school teachers bore the heaviest average workload (51.87 hours a week) compared to 50.02 hours for middle school teachers and 51.15 hours a week for secondary school staff.

One in a hundred of the teachers said they were putting in more than 70 hours a week. The union has called on its members to put administrative tasks "to the back of the queue" although it stopped short of calling for a campaign of guerrilla action similar to that mounted in the last pay dispute.

On Monday the union will announce the result of a ballot of its 118,000 members on a call for a one-day strike in protest at the Government's decision to pay this year's 8.3 per cent pay award in two stages.

The NAS/UTW is alone among the six English teachers' unions in threatening to take industrial action over the pay issue.

## Piano restorers strike the right note



Graham Cooper (left) with his colleagues Dennis Malin (centre) and John Simmet, piano restorers, at work at The Piano Workshop, in Newborough, Staffordshire. Mr Cooper, who collects unwanted pianos, says that there is a growing demand for traditional pianos over electronic keyboards.

## Secret directive for governors to toe Labour line

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Secret instructions have been sent to school governors appointed by a Labour council to follow the party line on educational matters, ranging from school uniforms to anti-apartheid protests. They are asked to destroy the advice rather than let it be seen.

In a letter addressed "Dear Comrade", Mr Maxwell Bird, chairman of Humberside County Council education committee, says it has taken a long time to find a way to write to party governors "without impropriety".

The governors will now receive a letter every term, but Mr Bird tells them: "Please keep it or destroy it... do not let it get into Tory or other hands." He adds that any other governors who are also party members can apply to receive the regular guidance.

Mr Bird tells the party governors: "I ask you to remember at all times that you represent the local education authority and that is Labour controlled and should be supported... We rely on you."

Mr Bird says the governors



Mr Straw: Councillors have right to send such letters.

should challenge any attempt to introduce school uniforms: "It is contrary to party policy... but we can no longer make governors comply."

Labour governors are asked to persuade schools to support Humberside's anti-apartheid policy: "There is also the question of banning rugby union from our sports fields because of the South African tour. This will not affect schools themselves playing union, only outside teams coming in."

In a clear attempt to keep Conservatives off the governing bodies, Mr Bird says that many displaced Tories had returned as co-opted members last year because the Labour Party had been "very slow at getting organized".

He writes: "We need to be more prepared for such vacancies and have names ready with a good reason why that person should be co-opted. Please arrange this with your branch secretary. One Labour governor on each governing body could ask to be notified in advance of any vacancies."

Mr Bird also asks governors to co-opt a member of the non-teaching staff on to the governing body.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front bench education spokesman, said: "Labour councillors are entitled to write to their own governors. The request on co-opted governors is simply a response to Kenneth Baker's call for more Conservatives to put themselves forward for governing bodies."

Mr Bird, a solicitor, said that the county had been advised it was acting legally and that the letter was in response to request from governors for guidance. He said: "I was in no sense trying to give individual instruction to them. There is no way in which you could say it was an attempt to interfere with local decision making."

## Jail warnings to salmon-poacher

By Kerry Gill

Hoteliers, restaurateurs and the public are to be warned that they face substantial fines or up to two years in jail for being in possession of illegally caught salmon.

The offer of a freshly caught salmon at the back door of an hotel or croft, with no questions asked, is a feature of Scottish rural life.

The Association of Scottish District Salmon Boards is to publicize the penalties people face for knowingly buying such salmon. It says that the cost of poaching to salmon fisheries runs into millions of pounds a year.

Gangs, armed with advanced equipment, including Citizens' Band radios, will risk prison to take up to £1,000 worth of fish in a single night's raid on a salmon pool.

Few people are aware, however, of the strict penalties available to the courts for buying salmon on the black market.

The association says that anyone offered fish under suspicious circumstances should ask where it was caught and demand to see the seller's permit or written authority and proof of identity.

It is to distribute 10,000 leaflets detailing the penalties. Ignorance is no excuse in the eyes of the law and it is up to a purchaser to prove that he had no suspicion the fish was poached.

The leaflets also point out that a person charged may be convicted on the evidence of one person only, in spite of the normal legal requirement of the corroborated evidence of two witnesses.

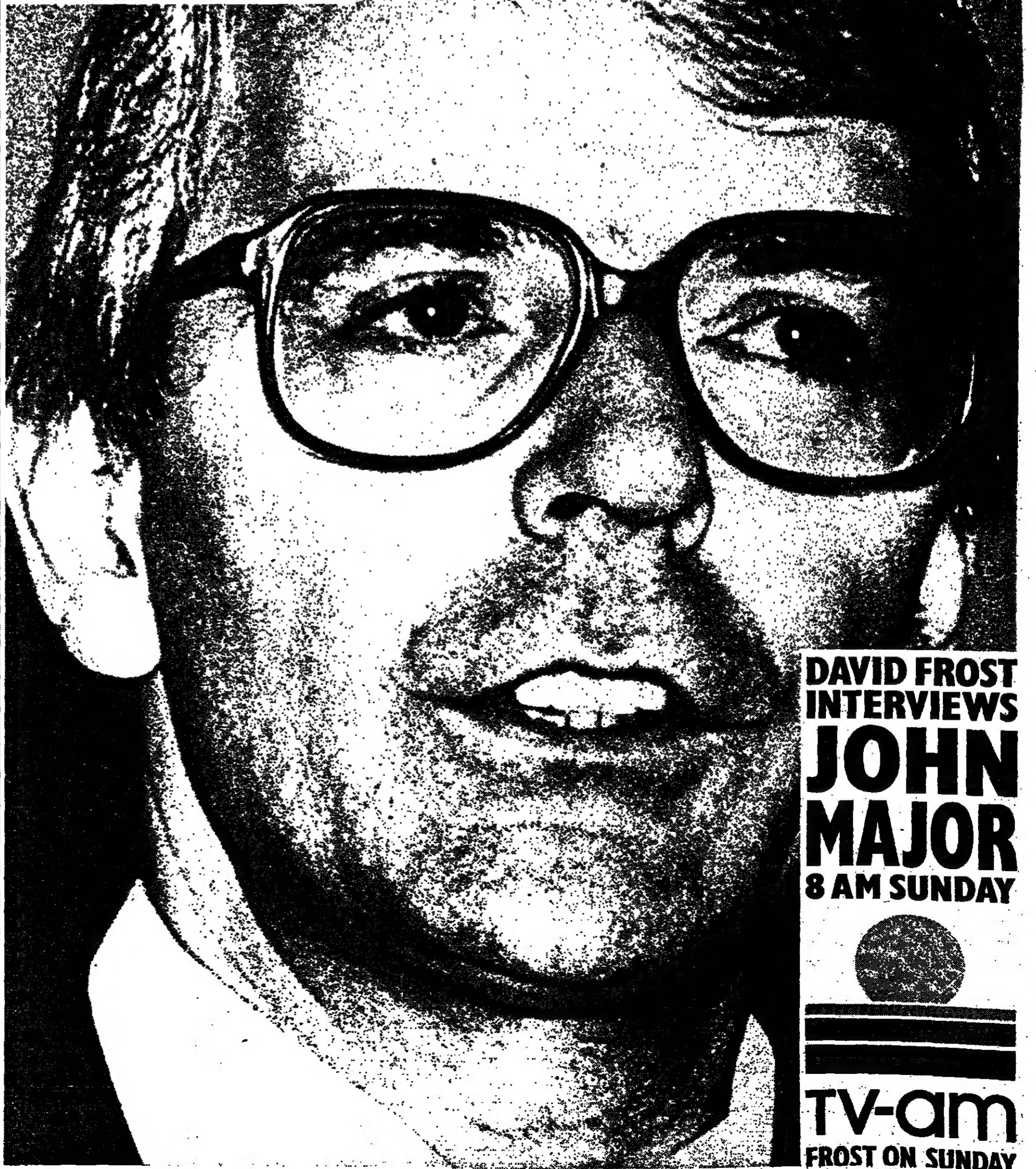
The association said: "Buying any salmon from doubtful sources does not mean that you are getting a bargain."

"You will, more often than not, be buying an inferior product which may be totally unfit for human consumption. The salmon may have been taken by the use of cyanide-based poison or other noxious substance."

Group Captain John Proudlock, secretary of the association, said: "Every week there are three or four cases of poaching on the Tweed coming up at court."

"All these fish are sold and it is well known that hotels take them. Even the best class hotels are not averse to taking them in at the back door."

## SUNDAY'S MAJOR INTERVIEW



DAVID FROST  
INTERVIEWS  
**JOHN  
MAJOR**  
8 AM SUNDAY

**TV-am**  
FROST ON SUNDAY

# Japan may push UK to top of European car-making league

By Kevin Eason  
Motoring Correspondent

Britain could be Europe's leading car producer by the turn of the century — as a base for the Japanese companies that are the largest manufacturers in the world.

Three Japanese companies, Toyota, Honda and Nissan, could be manufacturing 800,000 cars annually in Britain for sale here and on the Continent as trade barriers are dropped within the European Community after 1992.

On Thursday European Commission delegates will travel to Tokyo to try to negotiate a trade treaty with car makers to prevent a huge growth of Japanese imports, which may cost thousands of jobs in Europe.

It is that fear that will almost certainly lead to the introduction of a transitional

period restricting imports from January 1 1993, probably for five years. Anything more could lead to a scaling down of the £1.5 billion of investment in Japanese car manufacturing in Britain.

Anything less will lead to fears of mass job losses among Europe's biggest car companies as they streamline production to face the new threat.

Japan is angry that it has effectively been told that its companies are more unwelcome than, for example, IBM, or Ford or General Motors from the US.

The EC delegation can expect some hard bargaining when it meets representatives of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association and government ministers.

At the Geneva Motor Show earlier this month Japanese manufacturers signalled their intentions. Mr Yoshikazu Kawana,

president of Nissan Europe, said his business was modelling itself on GM and Ford as a truly European business. That would mean producing cars at Sunderland with 80 per cent European content, with about 90 per cent of those components coming from Britain, and design carried out in Britain.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that Britain could be making more than two million cars a year by the end of the decade with the increase from the present 1.3 million likely to come almost entirely from the three Japanese operations here.

Nissan has proved in Sunderland with an indigenous workforce that Britain can match the kind of efficiency levels once thought to be attainable only by the Japanese. The result is that output is scheduled for 100,000 cars annually and

will be doubled by 1992 — with only 3,500 employees.

Toyota also expects to be making 200,000 cars a year by the mid 1990s with 3,000 people at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and Shotton, Chwyd, and Honda 100,000 models, both its own and for its British partner, Rover, at Swindon.

In addition, Mazda and Mitsubishi are looking for sites and Suzuki is planning to open up an £83 million factory in Hungary.

Even if the European market continues to expand to about 15 million new cars annually, the Japanese production in Britain will hurt its competitors.

The Economist Intelligence Unit predicts an increase in Japanese sales from about 11 per cent to more than 20 per cent by the mid 1990s. More than 10 million jobs, 8 per cent of manufacturing

in the EC, are in the car business and, despite criticisms of Japan, have been employed in some of the most protected markets against Japanese imports in the world.

In Italy, Fiat accounted for seven out of the 10 best-selling models in 1988. Japan is allowed to sell only 30,000 cars.

In France, the PSA Group, which runs both Peugeot and Citroën, plus Renault hold about 65 per cent of sales. The Japanese are allowed 3 per cent. In Spain, where Volkswagen owns the home-based Seat company, taking a fifth of the market, Japanese imports are limited to 2,000 cars a year.

All three have defied British protests that production from Japanese plants in the UK should be counted within a quota for imports from Japan. Professor Garel Rhys, adviser on the motor

industry to the Commons select committee on trade and industry, says that it will be their own fault if France, Italy and Spain lose most from an unshackled Japanese industry.

He says Europe's car makers have remained largely bound by their thriving home markets instead of striking out for exports, as have the Japanese. The result is that firms are dependent on their home markets.

While the EC wants to discriminate against cars made by the Japanese in Britain, that would not prevent imports of Japanese cars made in the United States coming in.

It is the success of the Japanese in the United States, where they now account for more than a third of the market, that EC manufacturers are anxious not to see repeated.

## Baby-theft alert after call by fake health staff

By Peter Davenport

Detectives hunting for a gang of bogus social workers they fear is preparing an attempt to steal children yesterday added another incident to the seven cases they are investigating.

A team of 12 detectives was set up by South Yorkshire police earlier this week after incidents in which women posing as social workers examined children for sexual abuse and, on at least one occasion, tried to remove young people from their home, claiming to have court warrants to take them into care.

Senior officers said they believed the incidents may be part of a determined attempt to steal children who then might be subjected to more serious offences.

The latest incident, disclosed yesterday, occurred on Thursday at Littlewood, near Liversedge in West Yorkshire when a woman posing as a health visitor tried to examine a baby boy.

Yesterday the two police forces were liaising and comparing details of the incidents.

Acting Det Insp Terry Lambert, officer in charge of the West Yorkshire inquiry, said that links between the incidents could not be ruled out.

"A very similar modus operandi to that employed in South Yorkshire was used in the latest incident and the description of the woman involved is very similar to the one which police there have issued," he said.

The latest incident came at the home of Mrs Julie Hargreaves, aged 25, at Ings Crescent, Littlewood, where her husband Brian, aged 35, a works director, was at his office.

At a police press conference yesterday, Mrs Hargreaves said that she had just put her baby son Jordan to bed because he was tired after a

night with teething problems.

"There was a knock at the door and the woman there was carrying a clipboard and she introduced herself as Mrs Crowshaw and said she was my new health visitor."

"After she asked questions about Jordan I told her it was his first birthday on April 18 and she said she might as well give him his yearly medical examination there and then."

Mrs Hargreaves said that she repeatedly refused to let the woman examine her son and eventually the bogus health visitor became abusive and stormed out of the house.

Mrs Hargreaves added: "At the time I did not suspect anything. The woman was well-spoken and smartly dressed and confident."

"After she had gone I telephoned my local health centre to contact her to clear up the bad feeling and to see if she could call back again."

"I was told that no one of that name worked there and I realized I had been conned. I just went cold and shaky. Now I won't trust anyone ever again."

The police in West Yorkshire said that all available detectives had been drafted out to the case, which they regarded as serious.

Earlier in the week police in South Yorkshire issued Photofit pictures of two women they are seeking in connection with the series of incidents in and around Sheffield and Rotherham. They said that a man was also involved in some of the incidents.

Det Supt David Fox, officer in charge of the South Yorkshire inquiry, said that those involved may gain some sort of perverse sexual pleasure out of the examinations or it could be part of a determined effort to steal a child.

## Firm action call on wife-beating

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police are to be urged to treat domestic violence in the same way as other violent offences.

The Home Office is to issue guidelines pressing police to record well-founded complaints about wife-beating.

Ministers, who have become increasingly concerned about the scale of the problem, hope that improved record-keeping will harden police attitudes and lead to more prosecutions in serious cases.

In many areas, complaints of domestic violence are never formally recorded by police, let alone acted upon. One exception has been the Metropolitan Police which, since 1987, has had a policy of recording every instance of reported domestic assault.

The guidelines, expected to have the support of chief constables, will insist that every allegation is entered in station crime books. Domestic

violence is believed to affect one family in three.

The move was welcomed yesterday by women's groups and social workers, who said better record-keeping would encourage police to drop their traditional reluctance to get involved in "domestic" cases.

However, some experts suggested that it would do little to improve public understanding of the scale of the problem as only a fraction of cases would continue to find their way into the Home Office's quarterly published crime statistics.

Police have adopted a tolerant attitude towards domestic violence. However, attitudes are changing and many forces are setting up units to encourage battered women or men to lodge formal complaints.

Domestic violence, in itself not a separate offence, can range from common assault to murder. A quarter of all homicides are domestic.

## Herculean find in garden

IAN TURNER



Ms Helen Pottle, a Sotheby's expert, with a 17th-century Florentine statue of Hercules, bought for £120 at a market 20 years ago and estimated to fetch up to £80,000 next month. It stood neglected in a Welsh garden until the owners read of a similar statue worth millions.

## Vendor to sue Christie's over statue pricing

by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

The anonymous vendor of Giambologna's "Fata Morgana" statue, who accepted Christie's £4,000 estimate for it, only to see it sell for £715,000 last September, wants compensation from the auction house now that the sculpture is being offered by its new owner for up to £5 million.

"It is definitely worth more than it fetched at auction and I intend to go to court to get compensation," he said.

Mr Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's said: "At the moment there are no grounds for compensation. He got a very good price."

The Viennese-born collector, aged 79, insisted that he had told the auction house that the work was by the great Italian Mannerist.

Had he not paid for a photograph in the catalogue, he argues, the sculpture would probably have sold for the £4,000 estimated. "I was flabbergasted when they put it in a small provincial sale."

Mr Allsopp commented: "I have no knowledge of that personally. A great many people make claims for their objects. If we took into account what everybody says we would produce some very funny catalogues."

The sculpture was one of many works of art consigned to auction by the collector last year. His diary is full of appointments with specialists from a number of auction houses, none of whom appear to have noted the sculpture's quality. Representatives from Christie's include members of the antiquities department, old master drawings and watercolours departments.

Mrs Iona Bonham-Carter was invited in to look at the

sculpture. "I cannot remember being told it was by Giambologna," she said.

Luckily for the auction house, the statue's quality was noticed by a number of potential buyers, including Mr Timothy Clifford, director of the National Gallery of Scotland, an underbidder, and Mrs Pat Wengrat, the London dealer who bought it.

A test case in which a vendor claimed damages for negligence against the God-alming auction house Messrs May Baverstock was overturned last Christmas.

Dr Charles Avery, head of sculpture at Christie's, resigned last week after it was discovered he had personally placed a bid on the sculpture.

Mr Charles Saatchi's new passion for the works of Lucian Freud is revealed at an exhibition of 25 works bought over the last 18 months.

The 10 paintings, 10 etchings and five drawings, mostly portraits of humanity in the raw, can be seen at the advertising tycoon's gallery in St John's Wood. Most expensive was "Two Men in a Studio". Mr Saatchi is understood to have bought it bought last winter for £1.26 million.

Four 18th-century ornamental stone plaques stolen from Haveringham Hall, once described as "the grandest Georgian mansion in Suffolk," have been recovered from an architectural salvage firm in London. An antique dealer spotted them for sale and notified the police.

## Customers 'will foot nuclear power bill'

By Kerry Gill

The cost of retaining the Torness nuclear power station could amount to an extra £2 a week being extracted from every customer, the Scottish National Party claimed yesterday.

Scotland's two electricity boards did not need to use nuclear power, but were being pressed by the Government to sign contracts to buy it in, it was alleged.

Scottish Power and Scottish Hydro-Electric are at present being prepared for privatization. Both will be allowed to generate their own power, with the exception of the nuclear sector, which will remain under state control.

The nationalists said, however, that the Government was twisting the arms of the boards to enter into binding contracts to buy all the output from Scotland's two nuclear plants, at Torness, East Lothian, and Hunterston, Strathclyde.

Unlike the English boards, there is no legal obligation in Scotland for the two power companies to purchase nuclear supplies, but they are certain to do so.

Mr Kerr MacGregor, the SNP energy spokesman, said that the signing of contracts for nuclear power would saddle Scottish consumers with unnecessary electricity costs which would have to be passed on to the consumer.

If contracts were signed without the Government's shouldering the huge financial liabilities of the nuclear plants, the extra cost to every Scottish consumer would be £100 a year or £2 a week. The British nuclear milestone must not be hung around Scotland's neck, he said.

## Methodist numbers decline

Methodist Church membership has continued to fall over the past three years but more people are offering themselves for ministry and leadership positions, according to new church statistics (Clifford Longley writes).

Membership fell by 19,000 from 1986 to 1989, down to 432,000. The Methodist "community roll" — supporters who are not church members — fell in the same period from 1,346,000 to 1,321,000.

Recruitment to the Methodist ministry, however, has remained buoyant, around the target of 100 new ministers every year. There were also increases in the number of baptisms, of "local preachers on trial", and of lay workers in full-time church service.

## Twins foiled

Tony Litton, a prisoner aged 19 who walked out of Cardiff prison during visiting hours after changing into his twin brother's clothes, has been recaptured. His brother, Terry, has been charged for helping in the attempt and is now also in the jail.

## Judgement later

The High Court reserved judgement on a claim by United States Tobacco International that a government ban on the supply of oral snuff does not prevent it exporting its UK-manufactured "Skool Bandits" to the rest of Europe.

## Marsh remand

The former world boxing champion Terry Marsh was again remanded in custody by magistrates at Barking, Essex, on a charge of trying to kill his former manager, Mr Frank Warren. He will reappear on April 6.

## Postal clash

Postmen in Colchester, Essex, went on strike yesterday over reorganization plans as Sir Brian Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, visited the county and promised customers a better service.

## Roman dig

Bromley Council in Kent is to spend £135,000 excavating a Roman villa on a site that was to be used for a car park.

## Bar protest over clients left without legal aid

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The two branches of the legal profession joined forces yesterday in a formal protest to the Lord Chancellor over the fall in the number of people who can get legal aid.

In a letter the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar have told Lord Mackay of Clashfern that his latest upping of the financial limits which determine who qualifies for legal aid will do little to "stem the decline" in numbers.

There is overwhelming evidence, they say, that a growing number of people are falling outside the scope of legal aid. One recent estimate was that 14 million people have dropped from the scheme over the past 10 years; and the Lord Chancellor has acknowledged that only 56 per cent of the population now qualifies for legal aid in civil cases (other than family).

The Law Society's own research highlights that decline. Heads of households (with a dependent wife and two children) on one and a half times average earnings, and even on average earnings, who both qualified for legal aid (paying contributions) in 1979, now no longer qualify, it says.

The letter attacks Lord Mackay's review of the finan-

cial conditions for legal aid, expressing "deep misgivings" that this is being carried out by civil servants behind closed doors.

Instead, the Lord Chancellor should set up an independent and speedy review of legal aid eligibility, to publish its report within six months. The findings could be fed in to his department's main review.

"Given that the findings of previous reviews have been dismissed by the Government, and the vital importance of this issue to the public, there is surely an overwhelming case for an independent review commissioned by your department."

The rare joint action comes at a low point in relations between the profession and the Lord Chancellor over legal aid.

The Law Society in particular is aggrieved about his 7.5 per cent pay award for solicitors doing legal aid work in the face of a 21 per cent claim.

In their letter yesterday, the two bodies issued a warning that although the Lord Chancellor's review of legal aid was intended to lead to "better targeting" of the scheme, it could "further restrict eligibility, to help the poorest clients at the expense of others."

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor's Department said it felt that dealing with the percentage of people covered by legal aid was not the best way of tackling the issue. "We think it is more relevant who needs legal aid, and for what purpose."

The percentage figure might include all sorts of people who did not need a particular kind of legal aid, such as the retired, who were unlikely to want legal aid for divorce, the department said.

Although the timespan for the review was two to three years, the Lord Chancellor had said changes would be made as they were agreed.



Lord Mackay: Criticized over closed-door review.

## Sex case doctor sent 'love' card

Dr Catherine Scott, a psychiatrist, admitted yesterday she sent a patient a Christmas card bearing the words "to the one I love" two months after she claims he raped her.

The card was signed "with best wishes and lots of love from Catherine", the General Medical Council was told.

Dr Scott, aged 38, who is charged with serious professional misconduct, broke down in tears as she told the GMC professional conduct committee of the alleged rape.

She said the 24-year-old patient — named only as Mr A — burst in on her on October 9, 1988, and had sexual intercourse with her "against my will".

Cross-examined by Miss Rosalind Foster, counsel to the committee, she said rape was a difficult word to use.

Miss Foster said: "It is a serious allegation, isn't it?"

Dr Scott, of Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Lancashire, replied: "Yes."

Miss Foster: "Particularly between a doctor and a patient?" Dr Scott: "Yes."

Miss Foster: "It simply isn't true that you were raped, is it?" Dr Scott: "It is. We had sex against my will."

Dr Scott claimed the alleged rape was the second time she had sexual relations with Mr A, a drug-addicted schizo-

phrenic. However, she claimed that after talking to a senior consultant psychiatrist it was decided she ought to continue seeing him as a patient under controlled conditions.

She agreed that on the day after the alleged rape she went with Mr A to Bolton where a sweater was bought for him. She also went to a chemist and bought a "morning after" pill.

Dr Scott said: "I was feeling desperate."

Dr Scott went on to speak her feelings of guilt after allowing Mr A to make "prolonged" love to her in a room in Prestwich Hospital, Manchester, two months before the alleged rape.

However, she agreed it was inappropriate to send a card signed "to the one I love" to a patient who had allegedly raped and threatened her.

Dr Scott told the committee of hour-long phone calls from Mr A in which he threatened her and her husband and said he might have to rape her. Dr Scott's husband, Neil, told the committee his wife beckoned him to the telephone to listen to Mr A threatening to have her struck off unless she agreed to see him again.

Mr Scott said his reaction was of sympathy for her and immense hatred for Mr A.

The hearing was adjourned until May 15.

## Roar of air war gives ammunition to critics

By Ronald Faux

The sudden roar of a military jet flying low overhead prompts one of two reactions at ground level in the Eden valley of Cumbria. The sound is either an exhilarating reminder that "our lads are defending the realm", or an unwanted intrusion into rural life.

Exercise Mallet Blow, which begins on Monday and lasts five days, will be an impressive onslaught with up to 220 aerial attacks a day and yet more ammunition for those who object to the startling sound and sight of jets weaving over the countryside at little more than treetop height.

The National Farmers' Union has complained that the exercise will coincide with the busiest time of the lambing season. It said: "Strike Command has ignored our plea. The

sudden shock roar from a jet flying overhead definitely puts both ewes and lambs at risk."

News of the exercise comes after a Ministry of Defence report into a collision between two low-flying RAF Tornado aircraft last August.

The chance circumstances of the crash near Blencarn, which resulted in the deaths of four aircrew, were described in the report as the impossible becoming possible. That conclusion has not impressed many villagers.

Mr Alan Stones, an artist, said: "Every time a jet flies low over the house I think about that crash."

"It's a reflex now; the crunch of metal then the explosion and the flash that lit the room through the blinds. Debris landed 300 yards from the house."

Mrs Elizabeth Stones said: "Explanations are almost irrelevant. It happened and our feeling is that it could happen again. When they go over so low that the apple tree shakes and the children burst into tears we complain but get fobbed off with arguments about the need for defence training and Nato commitments. But why are they doing it, what are they defending against whom?"

In the parlour of Dr Michael Clay's home in Blencarn the argument centred on the changes in Eastern Europe that had changed the attitude of the public but not, apparently, the Government.

However, Mrs Dorothy Clay was more concerned about cracks in the potting shed windows and broken plaster.

She recalls the shock of seeing an RAF Jaguar roar over her car shortly before it crashed into the fells near Hartside. "It went over so low we all ducked and the car swerved."

The Government has held talks with Washington about a Pentagon proposal to build a huge £1 billion radar system on the Welsh coast to provide early warning of Soviet aircraft and low-flying cruise missiles, the Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

The Pentagon wants to construct the radar at Brawdy, in Dyfed, where the Americans already have a special naval facility.

The Ministry of Defence said that no decision had yet been taken about building a new radar system.

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## Close finish to race in disillusioned Australia

From Christopher Thomas, Canberra

Australia's general election campaign ground to a close yesterday as two last-minute opinion polls showed Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, struggling desperately to hang on to power.

The subdued five-week campaign petered out amid more dreary news on the economy, which seems to have entered a recession. Both main contenders appeared exhausted and depressed by the angry responses of a disillusioned electorate.

At least 90 per cent of the 11 million voters will go to the polling stations today, forced by law to make a choice when clearly neither main party has managed to ignite even the dimmest spark of enthusiasm.

Mr Hawke's Labor Party has long since lost its popular appeal and by any normal political logic the Liberal-National Party coalition ought to be heading for a decisive victory. The fact that it has not forged well ahead of Labor is due in large measure to voters' unease about Mr Andrew Peacock, the Liberal leader.

The snappy, ill-tempered Mr Peacock did himself no good this week when he was caught by a television camera calling a journalist a "bastard" for writing an unflattering story. Much of his campaign was a disaster. For a time it was buried in obfuscation as questions were raised about his understanding of economic questions, resulting in impenetrable discussion of economic minutiae.

To many voters, Labor and the Liberals seem almost identical. Labor has certainly moved to the right, although it still does not advocate the cost-cutting, tax-reducing policies that have formed the cornerstone of the Liberal Party's election bid.

There is little doubt that Mr Peacock's days as Liberal leader will be numbered if he loses today. Mr Hawke, too, indicated that he would not stay on as Labor leader if he lost. Even in victory it is not expected that he would see out a full three-year term. It is rumoured he would step aside after a year in favour of Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer.

For all the economic gloom that has tarnished Labor's popularity, Mr Hawke re-

mains the party's greatest asset, even after seven years in power in which the economy has taken a severe beating. Internal party polls show Mr Hawke returning to an unprecedented fourth term in office by a narrow margin, despite being able to offer little hope for decisive action to bring down mortgage rates - the lowering issue of the election campaign - which currently stand at 17 per cent.

Widespread disenchantment with the main parties has opened a unique opportunity to the left-wing Australian Democrats, who have never won a seat in the House of Representatives, even though they boast seven members in the Senate. Mrs Janine Haines, the party leader, hopes to capture at least 10 seats in the 148-member House - enough, perhaps, to hold the balance of power, just as her party sometimes holds it in the Senate.

A Newspoll survey published yesterday gave 41.5 per cent to Labor, 39.5 per cent to the Liberal-National Party coalition, 14 per cent to the Democrats and 5 per cent to others. But a Morgan Gallup poll put the Liberals narrowly ahead of Labor - 42 per cent to 39.5 per cent.

The final outcome depends in large measure on how primary votes given to defeated candidates are redistributed under Australia's preference voting system. Supporters of the Democrats and "Green" contenders are expected to give their preferences overwhelmingly to Labor Party candidates.

The compulsory voting system is assumed to benefit Labor because it mobilizes the big blue-collar vote. The system has been in force since the 1925 election. Failure to vote without good cause is punishable by a fine of \$10.

Officials at the Canberra-based Australian Election Commission say they have heard every imaginable excuse - I was out of town, could not find the polling place, the car broke down, the wife was sick, I had a bad back, the dog got run over. Even death is cited.

Most Australians, however reluctantly, obey the rule and the turnout can reach a stunning 96 per cent.

## Prince sees hope in forest scheme

From Alan Hamilton, Douala, Cameroon

The greatest environmental challenge of the next 20 years would be to reconcile conservation and development, the Prince of Wales said yesterday on a visit to the Korup rainforest project here.

Korup, where the Cameroon Government and the World Wide Fund for Nature, assisted by British overseas aid funding, are protecting 450 square miles of forest, was a highly regarded example that the world would be able to follow, the Prince said. The forest is one of the most diverse in the world, with more than 400 species of trees, and several hitherto undiscovered plant species.

The Prince described the Korup project as "a remarkable example of what can be achieved if a large number of people work together to create a sustainable system".

In his speech at a dinner given by President Biya at the start of the two-day visit, the Prince had spoken of "the priceless heritage" of Korup.

Under the project a national park has been created with the

forest in the centre, and a surrounding area in which it is hoped to manage controlled timber felling, hunting, agriculture and tourism which will support the local population and contribute to the economy. About 750 people live within the protected forest, and the project managers are trying to encourage them to resettle on its edge by providing roads, clinics and schools.

There is, however, considerable controversy over what are seen as indiscriminate logging operations in the area, which is set in the remote Cameroon highlands.

After a 30-minute helicopter flight and a drive along dusty forest tracks, the Prince walked into the forest over a dizzy suspension footbridge 360 ft long and 50 ft high, built by British volunteers. He took a 30-minute walk on forest tracks accompanied by Dr Steven Gartlan, scientific adviser on the project.

Later the Prince flew to Tunisia for a private visit, the Princess having earlier returned home.

## Approving laws on the nod in Taiwan



Four senior members of Taiwan's National Assembly snoring yesterday during a session in Chungshan Hall, just a day after thousands of students ended a week-long protest calling for reform of the country's

geriatric political leadership (Our Foreign Staff writes). The sit-in protest in a central park was prompted by the presidential election by the National Assembly, which is dominated by elderly Nationalist

politicians. Nearly nine out of 10 of the assembly's 752 deputies were elected 43 years ago and need not stand for re-election. The protest, which attracted as many as 6,000 students during the past week, ended

on Thursday when protesters agreed to give President Lee a chance to implement democratic reform. President Lee, who was elected to another six-year term, has promised an emergency conference before July.

## Collor puts his shirt on making the wealthy pay

By Rosemary Righter

Brazil's bloated stock market plunged this week by 50 per cent, as the country's affluent classes absorbed the astonishing news: President Collor de Mello, the man many of them had voted for last December because they did not believe his election rhetoric about making the rich pay for economic reforms, has been as good as his word.

The radicalism of the package unveiled last Friday has been rivaled in Latin America only by Bolivia. In political terms it is still more daring and marks, as Senator Collor promised, a break with the old order which had sustained the disparity between the living standards of rich and poor. It combines heavy state intervention with market liberalization.

The centrepiece is a monetary squeeze: the Government has frozen, for up to 18 months, \$115 billion (\$71.8 billion) of individual and company savings accounts and deposits - removing 70 per cent of liquidity at a stroke. Price controls have been imposed, and the predicted inflation rate for April is down to 15 per cent from this month's 85 per cent.

The penalties on the rich, who had made a good living out of runaway inflation by investing government paper, do not stop there. The new fiscal measures, notably a wealth tax and levies on financial transactions, are the most visible signs. But even more far-reaching are the abolition of government-funded incentives and subsidies for business, and a dramatic liberalization of imports.

Generations of Brazilians have grown rich on the cosy cartel relations between government and business. Subsidies, state contracts, price-fixing arrangements, and corruption have flourished behind some of the world's stiffest protectionist barriers.

The party is over, too, for Brazil's feather-bedded state industries. Senator Collor's package combines economic liberalism with more than a streak of political authoritarianism, nowhere more evident than in his sweeping plans for privatization. Private financial institutions will be obliged to purchase stakes when they are floated.

The only area, an important one, where there are doubts whether the Government has been radical enough concerns public spending. By comparison with Argentina, what is proposed is pretty sweeping. Eleven ministries are to be closed or merged, and thousands of civil servants laid off (although still paid, at reduced rates). Many parastatal agencies are to be closed.

But the package as a whole is bound to create some degree of recession and with it, loss of government revenue. There are bound to be lay-offs in the private sector, suddenly starved of capital - although the Government intends to limit these by threatening companies which are too cavalier about sacking workers with the tax inspectors. The Government is banking on economic liberalization to raise the revenue needed to lift, as it has promised, the living standard of the poor.

President Collor's gamble is that the medicine will work quickly enough on inflation to enable him to boost the money supply, by degrees, by unfreezing part of the frozen assets. The sooner he can do it, the better, since the Government's raid on savings is legally questionable and the value of the frozen accounts is bound to fall.



President Collor: Living up to his election rhetoric.

## Aircrew on drink charges

A pilot, who drank 19 rum-and-coke and fell off his bar stool before flying an airliner with 91 passengers aboard, and two of his crew who shared seven jugs of beer, have been charged with operating an aircraft under the influence of alcohol.

Captain Norman Prouse, Mr Robert Kirchner, his copilot, and Mr Joseph Balzer, flight engineer, face a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison if convicted. They have been dismissed by Northwest Airlines and had their licences revoked. They began drinking at 5.30 pm the evening before an early-morning domestic flight on March 8. Court papers allege that Mr Balzer and Mr Kirchner left about 10.30 pm "visibly intoxicated". Mr Prouse stayed until about 11.30 pm and "fell out of his chair and had trouble getting up".

## Rabta claim

Washington (Reuters) - The National Front for the Salvation of Libya, an exiled Libyan opposition group, has accused Colonel Gaddafi of staging a fire that damaged the Rabta chemical plant near Tripoli last week to pre-empt a possible US raid and justify a security crackdown.

## Britons killed

Grenoble (AFP) - Miss Fiona Murphy and Miss Julie Packenham, two Englishwomen in their twenties, were killed instantly when they fell over a 2,000 ft cliff after a party on a ski holiday in the French Alps.

## Drug clash

La Paz (AP) - Roberto Suarez Levy, the son of Roberto Suarez Gomez, a jailed cocaine baron, has died after a shoot-out with police in the eastern Bolivian city of Santa Cruz, officials said.

## Gun dealer shot

Brussels (AFP) - Gerald Bull, an American arms dealer and the chairman of Space Research Corp, was shot dead here yesterday as he entered his apartment.

## Ivory banning

Hong Kong (AP) - The Hong Kong Government proposed legislation yesterday to outlaw ivory trade in the colony from July 17.

## Reagan's star quality dims

From Susan Elliott, Washington

Former President Reagan, once dubbed "The Great Communicator," seems to be losing his magic touch.

His once overwhelming popularity has so declined that his predecessor in the White House, Mr Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer dismissed by critics as a wimp and ousted from office in a stunning defeat by Mr Reagan 10 years ago, has taken the edge in recent public ratings.

"Carter edges Reagan in public esteem," *The Wall Street Journal* announced on its front page. The poll by the conservative newspaper found: "The Georgian is viewed positively by 45 per cent, almost the same as Reagan's rating, but Reagan has appreciably higher negatives."

Further puncturing the Reagan myth, national television this week showed almost eight hours of videotaped testimony by Mr Reagan in the latest Iran-Contra trial. Appearing greyer, markedly older and suffering from lapses of memory, experienced Reagan watchers sadly concluded that their star had dimmed.

The imposing frame of Mr Reagan, who was a defence witness for Mr John Poindexter, the former White House security adviser accused of lying to Congress about the worst political scan-

dals of the Reagan era, looked smaller than in real life as he sat under the flat courtroom lights.

Gone was the Hollywood-style stature that combined with his avuncular charm. "Trapped in that witness stand, Reagan seemed humbled, like King Kong brought into Manhattan, or ET dressed up for Halloween," wrote a *Washington Post* columnist.

The *New York Times* described Mr Reagan as looking "more like a retired real estate salesman or a small-town druggist (village shop owner) than a retired President".

National network television showed the full seven hours and 40 minutes of Mr Reagan's testimony over two days. The latest Reagan television appearance took many viewers aback. Mr Reagan's stumbling performance - he said the equivalent of "I don't remember" 150 times - reinforced perceptions that he was never in control as President or was avoiding the truth.

All this, 15 months into Mr Reagan's retirement, has further tarnished his image. The shine first dimmed amid accusations of greed over his acceptance of a \$2 million (\$125 million) fee from a Japanese firm for a speaking tour of Japan last year and has never fully recovered.

## Plea to rescue Quebec accord

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, has warned the country that it faces a "critical juncture" in its history, as he tries to ward off a constitutional crisis.

Mr Mulroney's televised address to the nation on Thursday night was an attempt to mobilize support for the beleaguered Meech Lake accord, a plan aimed at bringing French-speaking Quebec province into the Canadian Constitution.

Clearly worried that the accord is in danger, Mr Mulroney said: "We are at a critical juncture in our history. The decisions we make in the next 90 days will profoundly affect our lives."

Indications yesterday were that he had succeeded in easing some of the tensions over the accord, which will die unless ratified by all 10 provinces by June 23.

But the fate of the plan to heal the constitutional rift between French and English Canada hangs in the balance. Two provinces, New Brunswick and Manitoba, have yet to ratify the accord and a third, Newfoundland, is threatening to withdraw its earlier approval.

The tensions stem from Quebec's insistence that the accord - named after a resort near Ottawa where it was hammered out by Mr Mulroney and the provincial premiers - be adopted as it is.

Under Meech Lake, Quebec would be recognized as a "distinct society" within Canada. The dissenting provinces object to this and many other provisions. They are also unhappy with numerous omissions, and vow to kill the accord unless their concerns are dealt with.

Earlier on Thursday Mr Clyde Wells, the Premier of Newfoundland, introduced a motion in the provincial legislature to rescind Newfoundland's ratification of the accord. If his motion is passed, it will almost certainly finish Meech Lake.

Mr Mulroney drew praise from premiers for the one concrete measure he announced. His Conservative Government will introduce in the Commons next week a resolution offering a possible way out of the dilemma.

This resolution addresses women's rights, aboriginal rights, minority language rights, regional disparities and other issues not covered by the Meech Lake agreement. Quebec, whose 6.5 million inhabitants account for a quarter of the national population, has repeatedly warned that it will have to re-examine its place in the Canadian Confederation if Meech Lake is not adopted.

Quebec's constitutional isolation dates from 1982, when it refused to accept the formula by which Canada's Constitution was finally brought home from Britain, where it had resided since 1867.

## Sewer diggers stumble on Cheops temple

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

American-financed sewer workers, digging close to the pyramids, have discovered remains of the valley temple built by the pharaoh Cheops for his funeral some 4,600 years ago.

Experts have confirmed that the discovery, at Giza on the outskirts of Cairo, is the remains of the spot where Cheops' ritual journey to eternity began, before he was entombed in a red granite sarcophagus in his pyramid, the largest ever built.

Egyptologists claimed yesterday that the find was one of the most significant in the area since 1954, when two well-preserved wooden funerary boats were discovered buried just south of Cheops' Great Pyramid.

The pyramid and the boats form some of the few vestiges of Cheops' 23-year reign.

The experts said that the newly uncovered temple, in the village of Nazlet es-Samman at the foot of Giza plateau, was expected to lead to important clues about Cheops' life and his reign, which ended in 2528 BC and remains one of the great mysteries of the pharaonic era.

Mr Zahi Hawass, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization's director-

general of the pyramids area, said: "I would rather find rocks in their original place than a cache of gold or statues that had been moved."

"With what we are finding now, we can piece together Cheops' history and reconstruct how this part of the pyramids area would have looked," he explained.

Work on the sewage project in the village facing the Sphinx, itself threatened by rising ground water, began last year. Egyptian experts were assigned to monitor progress on the sewage project because of the high probability of finding antiquities in the area.

The Egyptologists were alerted early this month when workers began uncovering large granite and limestone blocks, a flint knife belonging to an ancient workman, Roman brick walls and other relics.

By the middle of this month more remains were being unearthed, including the centrepiece of the discovery, a 59 ft long row of basalt rocks identified by the experts as the flooring for Cheops' valley temple. Basalt was an expensive stone, difficult to carve, and was reserved solely for royal use.

The discovery, certain to prove a

major new tourist attraction, lies 13 ft below street level and is part-covered with sinking sewage.

Only a few stones of the causeway from the valley temple, to which the pharaoh's body would have been brought by water for ceremonies followed by carriage up the causeway to the mortuary temple at the base of the pyramid, remain on the plateau itself.

Rescuing the find is proving difficult, as the archeologists have to contend with angry villagers worried that antiquities officials might force them to evacuate their homes.

Engineers are now pumping out foul water from the drainage ditch where the temple flooring lies.

Egyptologists claim that the find confirmed theories about the layout of the Giza plateau during the 70-year period in which Cheops, his son Chephren, and grandson Mycerinus built their three pyramids and monuments near by. The description of early travellers to the area provided valuable hints to where Cheops' temple might eventually be found.

In the fifth century BC, the Greek historian Herodotus wrote that he saw Cheops' causeway, covered and decorated with carved animal scenes.

The German scholar Lepsius said that only traces of the ruined causeway remained by the early 1840s.

Mrs Alan Samuel, chief antiquities inspector for the Giza plateau, which is at the centre of a fiercely contested improvement project being advocated by the Egyptian Government, said that the discovery supported Lepsius's accounts.

"Pyramid experts can now stand in the village and trace the route of the causeway to the Great Pyramid," she said. "Unlike the straight path to the pyramid of Cheops' son, it is now clear that ancient priests carrying Cheops' body had to wind their way around two curves to reach the mortuary temple."

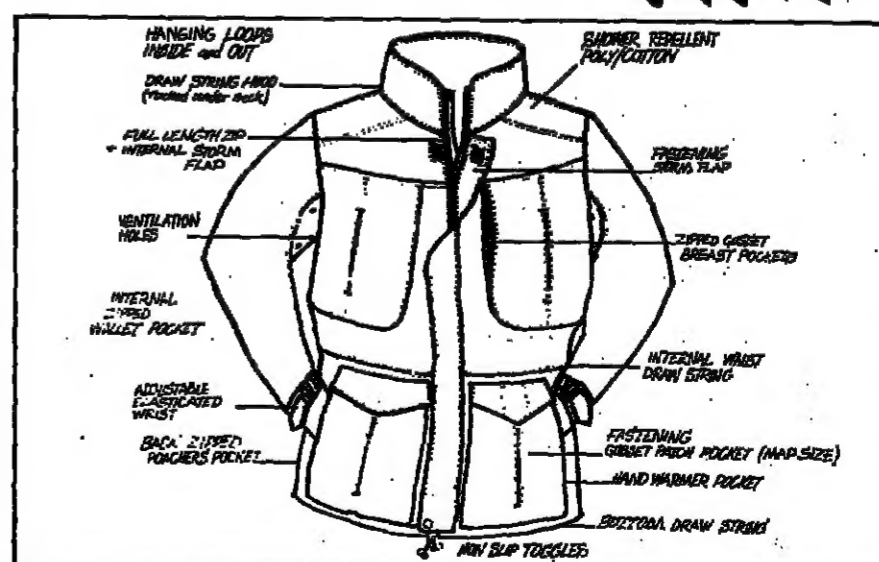
The journey to eternity began in the valley temple where the pharaoh's body was taken for ritual purification, and perhaps embalming. For the final rituals, it was carried up the long causeway to a mortuary temple next to the pyramid.

The Giza pyramids and the structures around them are precisely planned and executed as an elaborate system of rites for the dead. But their exact roles in the death and resurrection of the pharaohs are still the subject of intense debate.

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# East Europe hunts for the thinking man's diplomat

From Roger Boyes  
Warsaw

They have removed the Lenin bust from the conference hall of the Polish Foreign Ministry, but the diplomatic service is still dominated by communists (or social democrats as they now call themselves) working the cocktail circuit on behalf of the Solidarity Government.

But now, more than ever, the democratic East European states need a new breed of diplomats to implement fresh foreign policies, and the time has come for a purge of the old school.

Britain has promised to help the Poles in training embryo ambassadors by offering courses in multilateral diplomacy. The French are willing to let Polish trainees work in their consulates. In Bulgaria there is talk of a charm school to teach Foreign Ministry clerks how to smile rather than grunt. But the first step is to

extract communist-aligned ambassadors: this is a revolution from the top.

Czechoslovakia has replaced almost 30 ambassadors, thanks to the efforts of Mr Jiri Dienstbier, the new Foreign Minister. He was a Czech television correspondent in Washington at the time of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion. Then, courtesy of Brezhnev, he became a night porter, a truck loader and, until his appointment as minister, a boiler stoker.

He has appointed Ms Rita Klimova, a fellow dissident and a signatory of Charter 77, as ambassador to Washington, and the son of Rudolf Slansky, the Czechoslovak Communist Party leader executed in the 1950s, as ambassador to Moscow.

Romanian ambassadors are being summoned home and are being replaced either by uncomfortable members of the Salvation Front or by poets, or both. Even fast learners, like Ion

Tesu, ambassador to Warsaw, are being purged. Mr Tesu, a passionate supporter of Ceausescu, became a passionate opponent only three days after the revolution last Christmas. He flashed V-for-victory signs on Polish television, but to no avail.

In Hungary, the opposition groups insisted that all diplomatic posts be frozen until after the elections on Sunday. The Hungarian Diplomats' Union, a highly professional body, protested saying that the non-communists wanted to politicize the service.

This balance between political acceptability and professional competence is being most actively sought by Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish Foreign Minister and a professor of international law.

That is why his purge — of 19 ambassadors — is only just about to be launched, seven months after the Solidarity-led Government came to power. He told his

diplomats at the outset that he did not care about their party cards: he demanded only competence and loyalty. So far competence is the main problem.

Communist party institutes provided the bulk of diplomats' training and linguistic skills, which stressed the learning of the Russian language. "In the mission in Greece nobody speaks Greek," claimed a diplomat in a weekly magazine. "In Malmo nobody speaks Swedish. When the Foreign Ministry decided to streamline embassies in the 1980s it withdrew the only Hungarian speaker from the Polish Embassy in Budapest. As far as I know only about four out of every 20 Polish diplomats abroad speak any foreign language at all."

The foreign services in all East European countries — which were dictated to by the Politburo — virtually became shelters for disgraced political figures. The general of the secret police, implicated

in the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest, was sent as chargé d'affaires to Albania. Other ousted hardliners were sent to Libya and Syria while displaced liberal communists were appointed trade attachés in Nigeria and Finland.

In Poland, they are known as "parachuters", guaranteed a soft landing. Lower down, idle sons of Politburo or Central Committee members were given undemanding diplomatic jobs and thus the opportunity to make a few dollars.

Although the salary of a diplomat is low when at home, he receives a monthly allowance of between \$1,000 (£625) and \$3,000 when posted abroad. There are no allowances for entertainment or school fees, but the salary is still princely, and well above that of the Prime Minister.

Polish diplomats scrimp and save, rarely attending dinner parties since they would then have to give one in return. Most of the

socializing is done at cocktail parties since the diplomat can stock up with canapés.

The most sought-after posting is still Moscow since the diplomat can regularly return home and smuggle goods bought on the Soviet black market. The best deals involve cars — buying at diplomatic discounts and reselling in the Middle East.

As Eastern Europe charts out a new course, this self-serving breed of diplomat has become a liability. Until 1989, all foreign policy had to be co-ordinated with Moscow. For its representatives on international organizations, the alphabet saved any embarrassing divergences — the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians and Romanians simply watched how Belorussia voted and followed suit.

Now, however, the normal consultation channels have collapsed — witness the divergence of opinions at the latest Warsaw Pact foreign ministers conference in

Prague — and at best, there is only telephone contact between Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and his counterparts in the Pact.

Last month Poland embarked on a diplomatic offensive in the West to apply pressure on Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, with barely a backward glance at Moscow.

Moreover the Poles, Czechoslovaks and Hungarians want a united Germany to stay in Nato, while the Soviet Union does not. It is a new age of old-fashioned European diplomacy and the East Europeans, for the first time in 50 years, need diplomats who can think on their feet.

A group of Hungarian diplomats is taking this view literally and has signed up for dancing lessons, looking forward, perhaps, to the ultimate reunification of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the restoration of the old imperial court.

## Unity hope slows flood of refugees from East

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The number of East Germans moving west to settle dropped yesterday to just a quarter of the level it reached before last Sunday's elections, showing that hopes of early reunification are now stopping the damaging exodus.

The number registering over the day was just 706, compared with an average of about 2,800 last week.

On Thursday the number fell below 1,000 for the first time since last July, with just 931 registering. The figure on Wednesday had been 1,156 and the previous day 1,580, so the downward trend is continuing, to the relief of Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and of the *Länder*, which have been struggling to accommodate the 400,000 who have come out since the Wall opened in November.

The Federal Government is now considering prosecuting Bremen and Saarland for refusing to take their allotted share of these new settlers. Saarland — where Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democratic Party candidate-elect for Chancellor, is Prime Minister — has taken only 1.3 per cent instead of the 2.5 per cent it was meant to.

Bremen, which also has a Social Democratic government, has accepted 1.8 per cent instead of the 1.3 per cent it was required to, but it has now closed its reception centres ahead of a government decision to do so from July 1.

Stopping the exodus is the most important immediate result of the elections, but with the lengthy process of forming a government and negotiating reunification, it must be an open question how long East Germans are prepared to wait. Herr Kohl has now suggested that reunification may not happen until some time in 1992, even if it is possible to introduce currency union by July 1.

The difficulties of forming the coalition are straining the

Bonn coalition, while the three parties of the East German Alliance for Germany, formed by the Chancellor, are increasingly at odds.

One of them may well now have to drop out if there is to be any chance of forming a grand coalition — and without a grand coalition it will not be possible to assemble a large enough majority to pass the constitutional changes required for reunification.

The problem centres on the need to bring the Social Democrats into government. Although they won only 21.84 per cent of the vote, compared with 48.14 per cent for the three Alliance parties, it will not be possible to pass constitutional amendments without the support of their 87 members in the Volkskammer.

Herr Kohl — although he has excluded the Social Democrats in the West from consultations about reunification — does urgently want the Social Democrats in the East to join a grand coalition so that the necessary legislation can be rushed through. In the involved horse-trading this requires, new strains are beginning to emerge in the West German coalition.

At the heart of the Chancellor's difficulties is the German Social Union (DSU), which won 6.32 per cent of the vote and 25 seats in the new Volkskammer and which is closely linked to the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian sister party of Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

The DSU has already said it will stand as a national party in a united Germany. The party sees itself as to the right of the Christian Democrats.

Its right-wing leanings, however, are too much for the Social Democrats in the East, who refuse to consider joining a coalition which includes it. With his eye on the goal of unity, Herr Kohl is trying to ease the DSU out so that the Social Democrats will join.

## Coming down to earth



Workmen guiding the Goddess of Victory down to earth from the top of the Brandenburg Gate for repairs yesterday.

The statue was damaged by revellers who climbed it during the first New Year's Eve celebrations to be held at the Gate after its reopening. It needs restoration work costing more than £330,000 (Anne McElvoy writes from East Berlin).

Although the gate stands in East German territory, West Germany is taking over the cost of restoration, which will be carried out in public view in the Transport Museum of West Berlin. The four horses surrounding the statue are also being repaired. Precision lifting equipment is being used to prevent further

damage to the figures but the entire operation depends on the weather.

While the statue is down the East Germans will take the opportunity of blasting away the fortified wall, 18 inches thick and constructed to withstand tanks, behind the Gate. Experts had warned that the goddess was too fragile to withstand the shock.

The statue will be put back on top of the Gate later in the year, but facing the West. It was turned round from its original position by the East Germans in the 1950s.

A mass of specially constructed light scaffolding now covers the entire edifice, with teams of building workers drafted in to help in the renovation work.

## Muscovites alarmed by capitalism

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gorbachev may have been preoccupied all week with the situation in Lithuania, but Muscovites have been concentrating their energies on another application of their President's newly acquired power: the expected — and much-feared — decrees on economic and monetary reform foreshadowed in his inaugural address.

These — it is anticipated — could push the Soviet Union on to the fast track of capitalist development from a standing start of near-bankruptcy, a prospect widely greeted more as a threat than a promise.

The semi-official news agency, Interfax, has published a series of items, from its interview with Mr Gorbachev's chief economic adviser, Dr Nikolai Petrakov, to information gleaned from reformist parliamentary deputies, suggesting that as many as 17 separate legislative orders are ready for immediate promulgation and that the measures will mark a clean break with the cobbled-together socialism of the past.

The proposed legislation has been compiled by Mr Leonid Abalkin, the leading economist and deputy Prime Minister. It is said to deal with such diverse subjects as the full convertibility of the rouble, new wholesale prices and the withdrawal of state agencies from most commercial activity.

Interfax said the new measures would become effective from July 1. Whether they would be announced in advance is a question of extreme sensitivity because of public trepidation about anything to do with price reform and food supplies.

Speculation about urgent and drastic economic measures has been reinforced by information published in the new — and well-connected — weekly journal *Kommersant*.

An anonymous commentator said 20 new measures were being drafted for completion by May 1.

It said that a new commission had been set up under the chairmanship of Mr

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, which was to prepare a report by April 10 on the transition to a "planned-market economy" and draft the relevant legislation.

The areas of new legislation reported by *Kommersant* includes Bills on "freedom of economic activity and enterprise development", "price reform", "principles of anti-monopoly legislation", "foreign investment in the USSR", "indexation of incomes and consumer prices", "banking" and "the customs system".

*Kommersant* suggested that there would also be parliamentary decrees on "the organization of food distribution in market conditions", and "social security for poor citizens during the transition to market relations", as well as government decrees on tax inspection, credit reform, the creation of a bond market, the introduction of a single conversion rate for the rouble, and new wholesale prices for agricultural and industrial raw materials.

Taken together, this legislation would add up to a comprehensive restructuring of the whole Soviet economy. Without the spur of presidential decrees, however, it is unlikely either to be implemented or even passed by the Supreme Soviet, which had difficulty enough with the half-hearted Bills on property ownership and land use.

April 1, May 1, June 1 and July 1 are all being bandied about as possible dates for the reforms to be unleashed on an apprehensive population. The so-called "Polish variant" — overnight price increases coupled with currency convertibility — is discussed in hushed tones by academics at their seminars and in the Moscow Metro by commuters.

Last week the "Polish variant" was brought a step closer when it received suddenly favourable coverage in the Soviet media. Long-standing foreign residents of Moscow insist that Russians are better off now than they were 10 years ago. The problem for the leadership is that people do not feel better off.

● VIENNA: Despite Mr Gorbachev's drive for self-sufficiency, the Soviet Union has agreed to buy billions of dollars of US grain in a sign that Moscow expects to depend on huge food imports for years (Reuters reports).

Soviet and US negotiators this week unveiled a tentative agreement, hammered out here this week, that calls on Moscow to buy at least 10 million tonnes of United States wheat, corn and soy products every year for five years.

The accord means minimum United States sales of about \$6.5 billion (£5 billion) over five years.

Bear baiting, page 10



Mr Gorbachev: Expected to issue new decrees.

## Talks on Nato urged

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

All Nato troops stationed in Germany should be included in future arms control negotiations, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

At present the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna only envisage cuts in Soviet and American troop strengths, to 195,000 each in Central Europe.

But Herr Genscher said that "CFE" negotiations should follow immediately after agreement had been reached in the present talks — expected by the end of this year — and they should embrace all troops. Herr Genscher, addressing the nine-nation Western European Union in Luxembourg, was echoing similar demands made by Moscow.

The Soviet Union, however, has been suggesting a ceiling on all troops during the present CFE negotiations. Although not formally tabling such a proposal, Moscow negotiators have made it clear they would like a limit of 700,000-750,000 on each side.

Herr Genscher said European countries which had foreign troops stationed on German territory should be included in the second round. This would include, among others, both Germanies.

"Without decisive steps towards disarmament, there will be no European unity and no German unity," he said.

"We must begin preparing CFE right now. Disarmament is at the core of European and German unification."

Negotiations on Vienna part two must follow on from part one without a break.

Nato governments have rejected Moscow's attempt to include all stationed forces in the cuts now being negotiated, although it is recognized that certain manpower reductions inevitably will follow the withdrawal of tank and artillery units, to meet the agreed limits on armaments in Europe.

Stationed in Germany at present are 239,200 US forces, 69,700 British, 5,700 Dutch, 52,700 French, 7,100 Canadian and 26,600 Belgian.

The West German Foreign Minister said the first agreement on conventional arms cuts also opened "the road for negotiations about short-range nuclear missiles and atomic artillery".

In May last year, Nato governments agreed that negotiations on "partial" cuts in the short-range Lance nuclear missile systems could begin once implementation of a conventional arms treaty was "underway". It was also decided to leave the decision on whether to modernize Lance until 1992.

But yesterday Herr Genscher asked: "What function will these weapon systems have in the future?"

Herr Genscher also told the Western European Union that the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe — "a major source of stability" — should be given a higher profile. He proposed a permanent council of foreign ministers of its 35 member

states be formed to meet regularly to discuss European security matters. The conference consists of the United States, Canada and all European nations, except Albania.

Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish Foreign Minister, attended yesterday's meeting.

● Berlin powers: A major issue at the two-plus-four talks expected early next month will be how to do away with the remnants of supreme authority which still rest with the victorious powers (writes Michael Knipe).

A whole series of mechanisms exist, based on occupation rights, that rest supreme power with the four wartime allies, including the final definition of state borders, control of air corridors, the power to veto legislation and the stationing of troops in Berlin.

The Western powers agree that a line has to be drawn under such post-war arrangements so that a united Germany can be fully sovereign.

The question remains how this can be done, and there is some concern that Moscow might block the process.

At the heart of the problem is the unanimity required of the four victorious powers. To some extent they find themselves hoist with their own petard. The Quadrilateral Agreement, which the four powers signed in 1971, set aside the fundamental legal differences between the two sides to establish a *modus vivendi* over Berlin.

Leading article, page 11

## Spectre of Stasi over new MPs

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Hans-Jürgen Joseph, East Germany's Prosecutor-General, yesterday rejected demands that the files of all 400 newly-elected East German MPs should be opened to public scrutiny after allegations that up to 50 of them may have worked for the Stasi secret police.

He said that the move, demanded by the commission charged with the dissolution of the Stasi, would be unconstitutional until requested by a majority in the Volkskammer (parliament) and that it was the duty of the individual parties to examine the past of their politicians.

Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Christian Democratic leader, has said that he is prepared to stand for the post of Prime Minister, despite accusations that he worked for the Stasi as a lawyer.

His decision defies the recommendation of Herr Manfred Stolpe, the head of the East Berlin Protestant Church, and many others in the victorious conservative Alliance for Germany, who believe that Herr de Maizière should forgo the office as long as there are suspicions about his past.

Herr de Maizière said yesterday that claims that he had signed a commitment to work for the Stasi, and alleged payments from it, were unfounded.

The country's fledgling Parliament has not even con-

vened for its first session before the spectre of the Stasi past is casting a shadow over its new democratic image.

This is scarcely surprising as the highly professional secret service had 80,000 full-time workers and over 100,000 part-timers on its books which, in a country of 12 million adults, means that most had some contact with its tentacles at one time or another.

Because the Stasi enjoyed the status of a ministry, other organizations, such as the State Travel Bureau and sports clubs, had to provide information if it could be proved that this was in the interests of state security. In the eyes of Herr Erich Mielke, who was head of the organization, just about everything was.

Herr de Maizière has denied the allegations of actual co-operation while admitting that he had had contact with the security service in the course of his legal work.

One brave psychology professor at the East Berlin Humboldt University has started an experiment to test reactions to the Stasi phenomenon. On one notice board in his department he has hung out the names of those students who worked for the Stasi, on the facing wall the names of those who spied on both boards. That is the lesson facing the rest of the country.



Mr Gorbachev: Expected to issue new decrees.

## Swedish military watch

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden has increased its military preparedness as a result of the tense situation in Lithuania, the Defence Ministry said here yesterday. It said the armed forces were monitoring Soviet troop movements in all three Baltic states.

Major-General Bertil Osterdahl, head of Sweden's Western Military Area, said: "There is an abnormal level of military activity in the Baltic states just now."

On the Swedish holiday island of Gotland, 120 miles from the coast of Lithuania, preparations are being made for a Dunkirk-style evacuation of refugees expected to flee in small boats from the republic in the event of Soviet military intervention.

Mr Hans Linder, the island's civil defence chief, said: "We are following developments with interest. We have had talks with all the authori-

ties involved and are ready to act quickly if there is an exodus of refugees. We will go out with Swedish boats to meet them, if they come."

However, the Swedish Air Force is reporting increased vigilance by Soviet patrol boats off Lithuania, and it is questionable how many refugees would reach the Swedish armada. Refugees who did reach Gotland would be assured of accommodation. The island hosts 400,000 tourists from the mainland each summer, but is generally deserted in winter.

The Government is under pressure from Baltic exiles living here to recognize Lithuanian independence. Mr Klemens Gumauskas, chairman of the principal Lithuanian exile organization, called for Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, to "clarify" Swedish policy towards the

Baltic states. "If one is realistic, one shouldn't expect too much," Mr Gumauskas said.

"Sweden recognized with indecent haste the Soviet occupation of the Baltic countries."

All the main political parties back Mr Carlsson's cautious approach, except the Greens, who are demanding that Sweden recognize Lithuania as independent.

Mr Carl Bildt, the Conservative Party leader, who recently visited the Baltic states, has condemned the Government for doing too little and called for it to send a "permanent emissary" to Lithuania.

Mr Pierre Schori, Foreign Secretary, to visit Vilnius next month as head of a Swedish "cultural delegation". Mr Schori yesterday defended Swedish policy.

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The party  
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Hungary

## Election set to deliver Kadar heirs a final blow

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Four decades of Communist domination will come to an official end tomorrow in Hungary when 7.5 million voters go to the polls in the country's first free multi-party elections in more than 40 years.

Hungary, Eastern Europe's pioneer reformer, approved a democratic constitution last October and the one-party state has been slowly dismantled over the past year.

This will be the first chance for Hungarians to have a direct say in setting the nation's political agenda and to choose leaders freely since the Communist Party agreed to relinquish its monopoly hold on power in 1988.

Opposition parties are hoping the vote will deal the death blow to the remnants of communism, embodied in the reformist Socialist Party and its hardline Marxist rival, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, which were formed when the Communist Party split last October.

Recent polls indicate that the Socialists will take 10.7 per cent of the vote and the hardline rump of the old communists less than 5 per cent, a humiliating defeat for the people who wielded power over the nation for more than four decades.

Opinion poll figures for the two leading parties in the race, released yesterday, showed the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats and the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum almost neck and neck on 21.4 and 20.9 per cent respectively. The right-wing Smallholders Party was third on 15.4 per cent.

However, as campaigning came to a close Mr Imre Pozsgay, the once popular Socialist Party leader, put a brave face on the impending electoral rebuke. "We are well aware that left-wing ideas and democratic socialism have been compromised by Stalinist practices, but we have nothing to do with this," he said, repeating the party line that it was the Socialists who opened the way to democracy.

Although Mr Pozsgay said he believed the Socialists might be placed fourth among 25 parties putting up candidates, most opposition parties including the Democratic Forum and the Alliance of Free Democrats, have ruled out any participation in a new government by former Socialist ministers.

Dr Jozsef Antall, the president of the Democratic Forum, yesterday appeared confident his party will gain a clear majority in the first

round of voting by attracting voters in all regions. "We are ready to help complete a political and spiritual transformation in all of Hungary from the capital to the countryside."

The Forum's appeal to nationalist sentiment and "Christian values" may be helped by the violent clashes in Transylvania between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians as the party was an early champion of minority rights for Hungarians living abroad.

Mr Peter Tolgyesi, a leader of the Free Democrats, predicted that the clashes could add up to 4 per cent to the Forum's tally.

A dark horse in the elections is the slightly erratic Smallholders' Party, which advocates a radical land reform programme to return all property confiscated by the Communists and to privatize farming.

It shares philosophical ground with the Forum and the Free Democrats on foreign policy — including a swift withdrawal of Soviet forces and Hungary pulling out of the Warsaw Pact — but no party has yet come to grips with its land proposals.

However, last week Dr Antall hinted that the Smallholders were ready to compromise with the Forum, opening the way for a centre-right coalition with Dr Antall as Prime Minister.

It is no surprise that the opposition parties born in the climate of freedom of the past two years are the obvious choices of most Hungarians.

Although the "soft communism" of the late Kadar years allowed for some private market initiative and relative freedom to travel, the mechanism of repression and censorship remained intact. Books were banned, dissidents were harassed and real economic reforms were blocked by the presence of party apparatchiks running the large state firms, most now bankrupt.

It was, in fact, the failed economic policies of the party which eventually forced the reformist wing, led by Mr Pozsgay and Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister, to push for a multi-party system as a way to attract massive Western aid.

All parties except the hardline Socialist Workers' Party favour a quick return to capitalism, a free market system and respect for private property. Economic restructuring will be a priority for the government which emerges tomorrow.

## Row deepens over Romania's Hungarians



Thousands of Romanian protesters on the march in Targa Mures yesterday as they demand an end to alleged privileges enjoyed by the Hungarian minority.

### Budapest steps up criticism

From Michael Binyon, Budapest

Hungary yesterday sharply stepped up its attacks on Romania, denouncing Bucharest for tolerating pogroms and parties which advocate genocide, and accusing the Government of the same dictatorial behaviour as former President Ceausescu.

Mr Imre Szokai, a Deputy Foreign Minister, said Romania had turned a deaf ear to all Hungary's calls for talks and dialogue. He said Mr Petre Roman, the Romanian Prime Minister, had not made his promised telephone call to Mr Miklos Nemeth, his Hungarian counterpart. The Romanian press had printed groundless stories of Hungarian troop movements without any official attempt to contact the Defence Ministry here.

Mr Szokai poured scorn on reports of an agreement to allow ethnic Hungarians to study in their own language. He said Romania had instead obstructed the importing of Hungarian books.

"It is with sorrow that we see the same attitudes shown as under Ceausescu, the same expressions," Mr Szokai said. "The Romanians had issued statements 'whose style does not reflect a constructive approach'."

He compared the situation in Transylvania to that of Nagorno-Karabakh, the enclave disputed by Armenia and Azerbaijan, and gave a warning of tension deliberately created by some Romanian groups to destabilize the situation.

## Not all's well that ends well

From James Bone, New York

A Broadway production of a play written by the late Samuel Beckett for his friend, the Czechoslovak playwright-cum-President Vaclav Havel, has stirred up a controversy because of the happy ending substituted for Beckett's typically gloomy finale.

The play, *Catastrophe*, is showing at the John Houseman Studio Theatre on New York's Theatre Row on West 42nd Street as part of a double bill honouring the new Czechoslovak leader. Beckett wrote the play in 1982 and dedicated it to Mr Havel, then serving a four-and-a-half years prison sentence.

In the original text, a character identified as the Director, helped by his Assistant, is preparing to put a martyr on public display as a sacrifice to the oppressive state.

The dialogue consists entirely of the orders the Director gives to his Assistant and

her responses. "Why the hat?" "To help hide the face." "Why the gown?" "To have him all black." "What has he on underneath?" "His night attire." "Colour?" "Ash."

The play ends with the defeated Protagonist being shown to the crowd, the stage darkening and a spotlight shining on his suffering face. The scene is accompanied by a sound effect of applause.

But in the Broadway version, updated to take account of Mr Havel's rise to high office in a country in which he was long persecuted, the play ends with the Czechoslovak national anthem stirring the Protagonist to unfurl himself to his full height, with his arms raised in triumph.

The theatre's description of the production, which one critic described as "a severe

disappointment", tells the audience that Beckett would "wink" at the changes. But his lawyer and publisher disagreed, and yesterday published an irate letter in *The New York Times* asking for the original ending to be restored or for Beckett's name to be dropped from the production.

"The ending and meaning of the play have been totally changed," wrote Mr Martin Garbus and Mr Barney Rosset, Beckett's lawyer and publisher respectively, adding: "He would be appalled."

Beckett, whose plays were banned in Czechoslovakia under the Communist regime, became a hero to the pro-democracy movement there.

One opposition poster showed Beckett gagged and bore the legend: "If Samuel Beckett had been born in Czechoslovakia, we'd still be waiting for Godot." Late last year, as Czechoslovak won

their fight for democracy, posters outside the Civil Forum headquarters in Prague's Wenceslas Square proclaimed: "Godot is Here". Demonstrators chanted: "Godot has arrived."

Havel himself regards Beckett and the British playwright, Harold Pinter, as his masters. When he first read *Catastrophe* on his release from prison in 1983, he immediately wrote a play in response, called *The Mistake*.

"The two plays added to each other and were supportive of each other," Havel wrote. "I hope by saying that I am not suggesting that I am equal as a playwright to Samuel Beckett."

When Havel heard that Beckett was dying in Paris, he spoke of visiting him once the presidency had been settled. But that was not to be. Two days before his death, Beckett sent Havel a signed manuscript copy of *Catastrophe*.

## Kosovo 'poison' cases on the rise

Belgrade (Reuters) — A mysterious illness struck again in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province yesterday, with ethnic Albanian children reporting sick for a second day amid fears of renewed unrest.

Radio Belgrade said there were new reports of suspected poisoning in four Kosovo towns — Pristina, Vucitrn, Titova Mitrovica and Lipjan — after more than 400 ethnic Albanians suffered stomach cramps, nausea and breathing problems in the town of Podujevo on Thursday.

Tanjug news agency said: "The hospital in the town of Pec was besieged with people claiming they and their relatives had been poisoned."

Ethnic Albanians ran riot in Podujevo on Thursday chanting "You poisoned our children". They assaulted at least 16 Serbs and Montenegrins, stormed police and communist party buildings, broke into houses and harassed drivers and rail passengers.

Radio Belgrade said most of the Serbs and Montenegrins, outnumbered nine to one by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, had fled Podujevo overnight.

Kosovo was calm yesterday morning, but Thursday's clashes raised fears of a surge in ethnic unrest on the eve of the March 28 anniversary of the Serbian outbreaks in Kosovo's autonomy.

Kosovo opposition groups reported 70 new cases of illness in Vucitrn, and the Albanians said the children were victims of mass chemical poisoning. Some doctors suspected food poisoning; others said some children could be feigning illness. "The life of some of those in Pristina Hospital is in danger," Mr Alija Gasi, dean of Pristina medical faculty, told the newspaper *Vecernji Novosti*.

Yugoslavia drew sharp criticism for its Kosovo policy in a report released yesterday by the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, which monitors compliance with human rights agreements signed by European countries.

It said that the "massive purge" of ethnic Albanians was unacceptable.

### The party line-up in Hungary

The main parties contesting Hungary's election tomorrow include:

**Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF).** Founded in 1988, has centre-right policies close to West German Christian Democrats, advocating gradual privatization, rural market economy, greater local government and eventual Hungarian neutrality.

**Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD).** Founded in 1988, proposes radical liberalization, rapid restructuring and privatization, faster Soviet troop withdrawal and speedy exit from Warsaw Pact.

**League of Young Democrats (FIDESZ).** Founded 1988, is closely aligned with AFD, but wants more social welfare. Strong "back-to-Europe" programme with full integration into Western Europe.

**Independent Smallholders.** Advocates comprehensive land reform, returning all land confiscated by communists and privatizing agriculture.

**Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP).** Reform wing of former communist party, formed after split last October and constituting majority of present government. Speaks of rebuilding Hungary along Scandinavian socialist lines.

**Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (HSWP).** The rump of the old communist hardliners. Wants modern Marxist state in Hungary, with close links with the Soviet Union.

**Social Democrats and Christian Democrats.** Both reborn "nostalgia parties" similar to West European counterparts.

Others to watch: **People's Party.** Centre-left nationalists revived from 1939; Patriotic Election Coalition. Stronghold of trade unions and organizations unable to form own parties; **Agrarian Party.** Over-shadowed by the Smallholders. Entrepreneurs Party. New party calling for complete state withdrawal from economic life.

### Glitch could short-circuit democracy

From Michael Binyon, Budapest

A week before tomorrow's Hungarian election, they tested the computers that will monitor the results. Embarrassingly, a third of them did not work. In the old days, a percentage point here or there did not matter. Every-one knew who would win.

But now a faulty circuit could commit the Hungarian Democratic Forum to oblivion, make the Smallholders the big winners, or even give a hefty vote to the old hardliners.

So Muszertechnika, appointed suppliers of a new M386 computer to each constituency, has got technicians in rented helicopters on standby, ready to fly at a moment's notice to any of the 176 constituencies where Hungary's latest technology may show signs of letting democracy down. At the last test, they all worked fine.

The same cannot be said for the phone system. More than 1,000 journalists have arrived here, many direct from Berlin, on the second stop in the Great East European Election Circuit. Their frustration is likely to grow as the phones become progressively worse at each new stop.

But the Hungarians are doing their best to keep the world informed. An election centre, with working phones, bars and television monitors, has been set up in a magnificent pre-war casino, complete with chandeliers, ornate mouldings and marble pillars.

Under communism, the building was the private club of the Minister of the Interior, where the privileged relaxed and plotted against the dissidents — most of whom are now leading the parties standing for election.

Tomorrow the old casino will see Hungary's biggest national gamble in 43 years.

Hungarians are entering the game with zest and confidence. Unlike their neighbours, they seem quite at home in the blizzard of posters, the television barangues, the last-minute predictions and all the trappings of a general election. Years of tentative steps towards democracy have given them a familiarity with free speech.

But even Hungarians must be shocked by the cheek of some of the posters. One shows the fat nape of a departing officer, in familiar KGB olive uniform. "Comrades, it has written in Russian across the top, 'It's the end!' Another has a photo of Brezhnev in his dotage planting a slobbering kiss on an aged and fawning former East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker. By cruel contrast, a young couple beneath it kiss in a romantic celebration of the political spring. "Please make a choice," the League of Young Democrats implores.

There is an overt banking for the good old days of imperial glory. One poster for the centre-right shows the cross and crown of St Stephen, the old sacred emblem, breaking through the hated red star and Soviet emblem.

It is almost as though Central Europe is being reincarnated here. That is now the obligatory terminology: Eastern Europe, with its Iron Curtain overtones, has been consigned with communism to the rubbish bin of history. One poster showed the bin, brimming over with a statue of Stalin, a party card, posters of Lenin and all the paraphernalia of the last 40 years.

Central Europe conjures up the Habsburgs, Strauss, cream cakes in Viennese coffee-houses, old ladies in flower-pot hats, order, tidiness and essentially Germanic values.

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## A LITTLE LOCAL DIFFICULTY

Never draw lessons from by-elections. They are wholly eccentric political incidents. Yesterday morning's "historic" Labour victory in Mid-Staffordshire certainly yielded a Labour MP where previously there had been a Tory. It confirmed that Mrs Thatcher's Government is experiencing a severe bout of mid-term unpopularity — if anybody was still in any doubt. It made pollsters rich, Lichfield famous and gave some publicity to Screaming Lord Sutch.

Mid-Staffordshire showed just how good Mr Neil Kinnock's re-emergent Labour Party now is at candidate selection and promotion, at by-elections. It showed how important local opinion polls can be in squeezing out third parties, at by-elections. As by-elections often do, it confirmed that governments rarely perform well in the middle of their term of office. Unless there is a hung Parliament, electors know they are not voting parties into or out of power. They are passing judgement on ministers, usually unpopular when in office, by tossing their favour to whichever opponent seems most likely to land a bloody nose.

All by-election "sensations" are hailed as marking the turning of a tide. The wider predictions made for the SDP after by-election results throughout the 1980s — from Warrington in 1981 to Greenwich in 1987 — have long passed into the mists of time.

Some by-elections are indeed so sensational that they transform the electoral colour of their constituencies for years ahead — Rochdale, Bermondsey, the Isle of Wight. So dazzling can they seem — the more eccentric, the more dazzling — that they seduce commentators into grandiose historical parallels, into extrapolating supposed "swings" into hypotheses about implied majorities in the House of Commons.

Orpington, Lincoln, Croydon North West, Fulham have entered the lexicon of politics as seminal moments in their respective parliaments. But nobody can really say why.

By-election swings are nowadays largely a function of the state of third-party strength locally and its vulnerability to "squeezing" in the light of intensive opinion polling. It is easy to see in the Mid-Staffordshire result decisive confirmation that Britain is firmly back to two-party politics. Not even this lesson is reliable. Despite the Liberal Democrats' poor status at present, there is still no reason why a good centre party candidate should not do well at a by-election. At Richmond as recently as February of last year, the rump Social Democrats came second and Labour was forced into fourth place.

Nor does government unpopularity in the third year of this Parliament mean anything more than... unpopularity in the third year. Even on the graph of opinion poll averages, by-elections sit as scattered, meaningless blips, sometimes on, sometimes wildly off the trend line. As guides to party strength in subsequent general elections they are irrelevant and potentially misleading.

Of course by-elections affect party morale. Parties like to win all elections. And if enough party workers allow their morale to be affected, their morale will be affected. Backbenchers mutter. The media tut-tut. If, as the Great Economist said, enough businessmen expect a recession, then recession there will be. But those wishing to feel the nation's political pulse do better to heed opinion polls, which we now know to be more reliable measures of electoral trends. By-elections tell us only about by-elections. Normal political service should resume as soon as possible.

## TIME TO BE SERIOUS

"If we succeed in synchronizing the process of German unity with the creation of a mechanism of European security," said Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher on Thursday, "then everything will be alright." The West German Foreign Minister may have intended this Panglossian recipe to sound reassuring; but its vagueness has the opposite effect. The time has come to replace such wishful thinking with clarity.

Synchronization in Herr Genscher's view involves intensifying the search for a security "mechanism" without slowing down German reunification. That makes the quest for a new stabilizing order for a continent which has started two world wars this century sound as simple as designing a bicycle spare part.

The East German election has closed the first chapter of the reunification story. Germans have acquired unquestioned internal sovereignty, symbolized by the importance given the two Germanies in the now famous "two-plus-four" negotiations with the four postwar occupation powers. But the two Germanies were also central features of the post-war security system. Their sovereignty in defence and foreign policy matters were always to remain "pooled" and not for unilateral decision by either state.

The stream of ill-defined talk about a "new architecture" for Europe is no substitute for a serious effort by Nato to design principles better suited to the new realities. The allies need to take the intellectual initiative, and take it rapidly. With the pace of reunification now set, Germany and its partners can restart the debate on the strategic future.

An insistent thread running through speeches by Western politicians, since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact became irreversible, is that Nato should become a more "political" organization. It always was an organization with a political aim — the defence of democracy. It could extend its political activities. But there is a difference between that and substituting politics for defence.

Nato is a defensive alliance. The core of the Brussels treaty of 1949 is that an attack upon any one member state in Europe will be an attack on all. Such an alliance means nothing without a readiness to use military force in the last resort to make that commitment effective.

Today there are understandable doubts as to whether the threat from the Eastern bloc is sufficient to demand the continuation of an alliance, doubts also over the form of such a threat. Would it be the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russian nationalism, Third World adventurism or nationalist conflict in Europe? Such questions do not undermine the value, as insurance, of the present military alliance. But they must regularly call into question its sense of direction.

The Soviet Union remains a massively armed power even if, happily, it is taking nuclear and conventional arms reductions seriously. A future alliance of the democracies will have fewer weapons, differently deployed. But there is still no evidence that all Western Europe needs by way of *force majeure* is a glorified police force for sorting out ethnic and border disputes.

The fashion for minimalist, non-nuclear defence is gaining ground again in West Germany. The Social Democrats' "European Security System" effectively proposes the dissolution of Nato. Mixed with the talk about politicizing Nato, this drift invites the false conclusion that a substantive military alliance in Western Europe is altogether out of date.

If the Soviet Union eventually accepts that a reunited Germany will be a member of Nato — and there have been hints to that effect over the last few days — it will presumably alter its strategy to try to make that membership meaningless. The SPD's policy, widely supported throughout the West German electorate, would do Moscow's work for it. Nato governments should not wait until after the German elections to say that this is wrong.

## SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS

The old chestnut is back. How many orchestras should London enjoy? The Philharmonia Orchestra recently decided to compete for the position of resident orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, lost to the London Philharmonic, and is now reportedly threatening to complain to the Office of Fair Trading. This is unlikely to win it a favourable notice. Unless it can prove that strings were plucked or the contest was in other ways unfair, the result should be cacophony and discord.

The merits of its claim against those of the London Philharmonic (which has won an advisory panel's commendation) are a matter for the South Bank Arts Centre and its board. Its decision to appoint a resident orchestra follows that taken by the Barbican eight years ago when the London Symphony Orchestra was selected. The success of that particular adoption has prompted the managers of the Festival Hall to take up the theme.

There are held to be two other advantages. One is that the resulting close relationship should encourage more adventurous programming. The Philharmonia feels particularly aggrieved on this score since it feels its repertoire has been the more imaginative.

The other is that London might develop an orchestra of front-rank reputation. Although the capital has four large, independent orchestras, plus the licence-free subsidized BBC Symphony, none has ever achieved the long-term international pre-eminence of those in, say, Berlin or Vienna.

The dissipation of talent and resources is assumed to have inhibited this development. By concentrating on two or three companies instead and equipping them with first-class facilities London might, it is claimed, achieve that off-desired objective.

There are two weaknesses in this thesis. The competition between a number of orchestras in Britain is as likely to stimulate as to dilute quality musicianship. The opportunities for young players in London are greater than anywhere in the world. What gives an

orchestra quality is the distinction of its musical director. As it happens, neither the LPO nor the PO at present has one, though residency on the South Bank will presumably encourage the LPO to find one soon.

Second, the objective itself is questionable. It would certainly not enhance the concert repertoire; most of the world's great orchestras are more noted for the quality of their playing than for their spirit of musical adventure. The joy of concert-going in Britain derives from the number and variety on offer. London has its own claim to be the music capital of the world — a stronger claim than Berlin or Vienna with their single "centres of orchestral excellence".

This is not to argue against the South Bank's policy. On balance it should benefit the arts, both in terms of quality and imaginative programming. One advantage for the LPO in future is that it should have first call on the Festival Hall for its rehearsals — on which the performance heavily depends.

Nor should it permanently harm the Philharmonia. The contract will last only for five years initially and will not start until 1992. The negotiations now under way will give the LPO the right to play about 60 concerts a year in the Royal Festival Hall. But the Philharmonia may play as many as 30 and should also have more rehearsal time in future.

The other London orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, has not even troubled to compete for the spot. This may be because it did not think that it would win it, having moved downmarket in recent years by broadening its appeal. This suggests, none the less, that orchestras can continue to survive.

For the Philharmonia, a historically splendid group of musicians, to suffer as a result would be a pity. No city might nowadays seek five symphony orchestras; but London happens to have this fine quintet and should stop apologizing for the fact. So far they have all managed to survive. Two of them now have a permanent roof over their heads. Long live the competition.

## Too few honours for industry?

From Mr Martin E. Simons  
Sir, On March 16 you published a list of 41 people who have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society. Apart from the Duke of Kent, elected under statute II, 23 are professors (of whom eight are at British universities, six other UK universities, five, Canberra, two, Bombay, one, others, one).

Of the 17 new non-professional Fellows, 10 are working at or near Cambridge, three at Oxford (including the only two women honoured), one at Sheffield, and one at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Only two are shown working in industry — the chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (the only nuclear industry) and the deputy chairman of British Nuclear Fuels.

What is disconcerting to a layman is that apart from the two new Fellows who are connected with the UK nuclear industry, no one else working in industry has been elected. That seems surprising in view of the pre-eminence of the UK pharmaceuticals industry and the enormous science research efforts being made by companies like BP, ICI, Shell and Unilever, quite apart from excellent work done at smaller companies.

It is difficult for those working in industry driven by the imperative to compete to write learned papers whose publication may alert competitors. But it should be feasible for the Royal Society to honour outstanding scientists working in industry. Yours faithfully, MARTIN E. SIMONS, 24 Grosvenor Avenue, Putney, SW15, March 19.

## History teaching

From Mr Christopher McGovern  
Sir, The History Curriculum Association is concerned with safeguarding historical knowledge in our schools, and not with trying "to force school children to learn more dates" (report, March 19). Historical knowledge does not equal rote learning of dates.

The all-subject assessment model imposed by the new National Curriculum prevents knowledge from being an "attainment target" in history, because historical knowledge cannot be sensibly graded into 10 levels. This is absurd. Knowledge must be seen as an objective and not as a means of facilitating the development of cross-curricular skills and concepts.

There is a very real danger that a generation of teachers and pupils will come to regard historical knowledge as being of secondary importance in their study of the subject. The consequence will be that the nation will lose its memory.

Yours sincerely, C. J. M. MCGOVERN (Director, History Curriculum Association), Windover, Pannett's Town, Heathfield, East Sussex, March 19.

## Outstanding dish

From Mr Ken Rodley  
Sir, I had begun to wonder if all satellite receiver dishes had to be white but today I have seen one in a modest dark grey.

It was fitted to a white building. Yours sincerely, KEN RODLEY, 52 Langston Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon, March 20.

## Unesco programme

From Mr Dragoljub Najman  
Sir, Mr Ivor Richard, whose outstanding experience is known, must have been totally misinformed when he wrote his letter (March 14) praising the achievements of the Director-General of Unesco. How could he otherwise write that Mr Mayor "streamlined" Unesco's activities?

A reference to the relevant texts would reveal that instead of 14 major programmes and 147 sub-programmes, on which Unesco's meagre resources were spread under Mr Mayor's predecessor, there are now, respectively, 17 and 182.

The Hammarströmd and Wilenski panels sharply criticized the management of Unesco (two years after Mr Mayor took office). Neither would have dreamt of recommending the actions he has taken since; far from reducing the staff, Mr Mayor has created 44 new posts (22 at executive level) while abolishing only three.

## Soviet Jews in US

From the *Chargé d'Affaires* at the United States Embassy

Sir, On a number of occasions recently (leading article, March 3; report, March 9; Barbara Amiel, March 9) *The Times* has repeated a widely-held misconception — namely that the large flow of Soviet Jews into Israel is a direct consequence of a reversal or restriction of US policy on Soviet immigration.

In point of fact, the United States is receiving emigrants from the Soviet Union in record numbers. In fiscal year 1988 the US received 20,400 Soviet refugees. In 1989 the number climbed to 43,500. In the current fiscal year we plan to admit 50,000 refugees, plus another 30,000 Soviet citizens under a new "special in-

## Putting charities' house in order

From the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales  
Sir, With casual disregard for facts your leading article (March 22) boldly states that the Charity Commissioners "will not put their own house in order". So culpable and damaging a statement is unworthy of you.

We are well down the road to establishing an effective system of supervising charities. This includes the computerization of information held in the Central Register of Charities and a rapid expansion of our capacity to investigate and check abuse in charities.

This programme implements the recommendations of Sir Philip Woodfield in his *Efficiency Study of the Supervision of Charities* and anticipates the Government's detailed proposals for legislation published in their White Paper of May, 1989. Together they will ensure full accountability of charities and enable us to become the effective supervisory body of charities which Parliament and the public and charities alike rightly expect.

We are on target. Major reforms have been put in place. The Government's full backing is reflected in their specific proposals for legislative change and the commitment of resources to enable us to implement our plans for structural and management reform. Sir Angus Fraser, head of the Government's Efficiency Unit has expressed himself well content with the substantial progress made.

Neither we, nor the charity world generally, need uninformed comment such as your own. Yours faithfully, ROBIN GUTHRIE (Chief Charity Commissioner), J. ROBERTSON, J. ROBERTSON, MICHAEL WEBBER, DIANE YEO (Commissioners), Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, SW1, March 22.

From the Director of the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers  
Sir, Your leader claims that it is likely that no more than 15,000 charities (from a total in excess of 200,000) are still functioning. It is clear from the vast increase in

## Thoughts on Budget

From Mr J. R. Anderson  
Sir, In response to Opposition calls, the Government (report, March 23) has conceded an extension of the £16,000 capital limit for community charge relief to Scotland in the current tax year. Yet it seems probable that it is the English less well-off who have been the losers.

Many will be the sole occupiers of houses who have had to pay the full rates bill. This is likely to have been considerably more than a single community charge. Their Scottish counterparts have benefited by the earlier introduction of the new system. Yours sincerely, J. R. ANDERSON, 4 Vardon Drive, Wilmsholme, Cheshire, March 23.

From Mr John Woodward  
Sir, Whilst welcoming the fact that wages will no longer have to pay tax on the benefit they receive from a workplace nursery, I feel I must point out that the Chancellor of the Exchequer appears to have created a potential anomaly.

My understanding, having spoken to the Inland Revenue, although they are by no means clear themselves, is that only nurseries run directly by an employer or a group of employers will qualify for

the exemption. Nursery places contracted out by an employer at a privately run nursery will not qualify.

Many companies are considering setting up a nursery at, say, head office, where staff numbers justify the outlay, and contracting places at local nurseries for locations where there are few staff requiring child care. If the new regulations as outlined in the Budget become law, some staff will be taxed on their employer's child-care benefit while others working for the same company will not.

Yours faithfully, J. WOODWARD (Managing Director), Busy Bees Childcare Consultancy, 6a Bird Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, March 22.

From Mr Robin Lawson  
Sir, The Chancellor is to be applauded for widening the differential between leased and unleased petrol, which he has done on social grounds. It is a great pity that he has not also seen fit to make a differential between normal strength and low-alcohol beer, to give a positive incentive for younger people in particular to drink the less intoxicating product.

I find that a regrettable number of pubs and restaurants do not serve low-alcohol drinks. I believe that they should be given every encouragement to do so, and the public should be given an incentive to consume these. Yours faithfully, ROBIN LAWSON, Blackheath Road, Worplesdon Hill, Woking, Surrey, March 21.

From Mr Nick Curtis-Raleigh and Mr Piers Barclay  
Sir, March 14, as you know, was National Non-Smoking Day. Would not this annual boycott be more effective if it were postponed until after the Chancellor's Budget speech, in the hope that he might add an extra incentive to those attempting to abandon the habit? Yours faithfully, NICK CURTIS-RALEIGH, PETERS BARCLAY, Gibbes House, Launceston College, West Sussex, March 20.

misreading of new US procedures, which are designed to encourage Soviet emigrants to remain in their homes and jobs in the USSR until they can leave directly for the United States. Our goal is to make the process humane and orderly, and to obviate the need for potential refugees to languish in refugee camps in Vienna and Rome.

I also wish to take this opportunity to point out that the views of the United States Government on allowing Soviet Jews to settle on the West Bank and in Gaza are a matter of record. We strongly oppose such settlements. Sincerely yours, RONALD E. WOODS, Embassy of the United States of America, Grosvenor Square, W1.

## Just treatment of the embryo

From the Director of the Linacre Centre for Health Care Ethics

Sir, "What feature of human life makes us bearers of dignity and its associated rights?" Professor Plant asks (article, March 19). He goes on to suggest that there is no satisfactory answer, and certainly not one that would serve to justify the absolute protection for the human embryo for which Cardinal Hume eloquently pleaded (article, March 16).

One established secular answer to his own question which Professor Plant identified is that the distinctive dignity of human beings rests on their capacity for rational deliberation and choice.

This answer is certainly unsatisfactory if you interpret it to mean that only those with presently exercisable capacities for deliberation and choice possess human dignity and its associated rights. For on this account not only would the irreversibly comatose be reckoned not to possess basic human rights, but also human embryos, unborn babies, infants, and the young up to some debatable point in development, and those, such as the senile demented, who lose the relevant abilities they once possessed.

There is a type of philosopher who advocates this list of exclusions and no doubt such advocacy is welcome to some of those who plan the provision of health care. But the advocacy is deeply unreasonable on two grounds.

There will be unavoidable arbitrariness in determining what counts as possession of the abilities in question, so that one will be arbitrary in determining whom to treat justly. And secondly, human beings are able to acquire abilities for deliberation and choice because inherent in the nature of a human being is the radical capacity to develop such abilities.

If the abilities are greatly to be valued then a great dignity attaches to the nature in virtue of which we acquire those abilities. Because human embryos possess this nature and the radical capacity to develop to maturity, Cardinal Hume's plea for justice for the embryo rests on a genuinely universal basis.

Yours sincerely, LUKE GORMALLY, Director, The Linacre Centre for Health Care Ethics, 60 Grove End Road, NW8, March 20.

## Unified science

From the President of The Royal Society

Sir, Your Education Editor writes (March 22): "Against specialist advice from leading scientists the National Curriculum Council has recommended a combined science course awarding two GCSEs..." Accepting that there are serious views among scientists on this matter, I would draw your attention to a statement of the Council of the Royal Society, *A balanced view of science*, published last week, which includes the following statements:

The Royal Society has long supported broad, balanced science for all pupils to age 16. Balanced science GCSE courses of the kind we support will merit two GCSE credits for successful candidates at age 16. This is known as double-award GCSE balanced science. It is the Society's full approval for all pupils including those who will eventually become the nation's leading scientists.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE PORTER, President, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.

## Sleeping easy

From Mrs Rosemary Farquharson

Sir, The duvet is indeed devil-inspired (Mr Chamber's letter, March 17). If I happen to encounter one when staying with friends I have found the only course of action open to me is to shake the feathered monster from its casing and lay it back on the bed, where it now takes the guise of a wonderfully soft mattress.

The cover (which is now of double thickness) will do admirably to sleep under during warm nights. In cold weather you need to add your dressing gown or even your overcoat.

You do, of course, have to stuff the blessed thing back in its cover in the morning and lay it prettily on the bed to await its next victim. Yours sincerely, ROSEMARY FARQUHARSON, 65 Earl's Court Road, Kensington, W8, March 17.

## From Dr M. Y. A. Oliver

Sir, To combat the duvet Mr Chamber should travel with a thermostatically controlled electric overblanket. Mine goes everywhere — even wrapped around skirts. Yours faithfully, MARGARET OLIVER, East Morningside House, Clinton Road, Edinburgh 9, March 19.

From the Reverend Peter M. S. Gedge  
Sir, Mr Chamber should remember that, if sharing a bed under a duvet, one good turn gets most of the duvet. Yours sincerely, P. M. S. GEDGE, Pasture House, Main Street, Hutton Buscote, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, March 17.

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**Compiled by Penny Osborn  
and Gillian Maxey**

**Peter Waymark**

## Peter Davalle

## RADIO 2

**Full Stereo and 4-Channel Surround**

**RADIO 3**

11:30 The Sacred Mysteries of  
Heinrich Heine Sonatas. No  
11 in C: Resurrection of  
Joseph. No 12 in C:  
Ascension of Jesus. No  
13 in C minor: Descent of  
the Holy Ghost



**3.00 There's A Down Your Way:** Malcolm Bradbury visits the minster town of Beverley, once a full-down market town, but now benefiting from a programme of urban renewal.

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**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1: 105.3u (London 274 FM-104.8), Radio 2: 90.2 Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m, Radio 4: 92-94.6 LBC: 1152kHz/251m, F: 95.8 Greater London Radio: 1458u, 648kHz/463m

## SERVICE

04

Melodrama 7.45 Language in  
 Hard Times 1.35-2.00pm  
 Dragons: News 4.00-4.08  
 Options: 4.00 Education Matters  
 4.30 The Wizzing Game 5.00 A  
 Long Long Tale A-winding 5.30  
 Race of the Stones  
 285: 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-99.8  
 182kHz/433m; 906kHz/230m; FM 88-  
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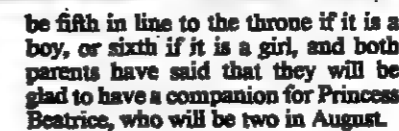
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## Waiting in vain as Duchess enters hospital

**Leading article,' page 11**



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# Redundancy costs peg Central profit to £27m

By Martin Waller

Heavy redundancy costs limited Central Independent Television to a £490,000 profit in the year to end-December, despite a 7 per cent rise in advertising revenue.

Central, which reported pre-tax profits of £27.02 million, also revealed it had decided not to buy Reeves, the US programme maker responsible for *Kate and Allie*, the Channel 4 comedy, because of cost. Thames Television subsequently paid £57 million for Reeves.

The group took a £4.8 million exceptional item from the loss of about 300 staff, against just £1.16 million last time, trimming employee numbers to just over 1,500.

The ITV contractor had hoped to cut jobs by natural wastage. But the group was forced to pay an average of more than £20,000 in financial incentives when staff showed themselves unwilling to leave. Mr Leslie Hill, the managing director, said:

"The job losses were made in time for the rise in the government levy payment that Central will have to make in 1990. This will add between £12 million and £14 million to its bill."

Mr Hill predicted: "We're on track to pay that huge additional levy payment in 1990 from the savings we have made in 1989."

Central is paying a 21p final dividend to raise the total 3p to 28.5p. Earnings per share were little changed, at 64.2p against 64.1p.

Central gained £5.44 million as an extraordinary item from the sale of its stake in Independent Television Publications, the TV Times pub-



Central confidence: Leslie Hill, who aims to maintain the group's market share, yesterday

lished, for £12.5 million after tax, set against losses from the closure of its airtime sales division. The closure followed the creation of Television Sales and Marketing Services in a joint venture with Anglia Television.

Mr Hill said Central had looked at, and rejected, three possible US acquisitions, one of which was Reeves.

He said: "We didn't think we could get value for money, and the risks were too high." He added: "I think the chances of getting it right are

lower than the chances of getting it wrong."

There was some concern in the City that Thames had overpaid for Reeves, given the disastrous effects on TVS Entertainment, the southern England contractor, of its own move into the US with the purchase of MTM.

Central's 7 per cent advertising revenue rise in 1989 matched the average among television stations and meant it retained its 14.4 per cent market share. Some companies have forecast revenue

growth of 4 per cent before inflation in the current year, but Mr Hill was more cautious.

The first quarter would show a 5 per cent to 6 per cent fall. April looked like seeing some recovery, and a flat outturn in the second quarter would be followed, he thought, by a small increase before inflation in the second half.

"If it's 4 per cent, we would be very pleased. We're quite confident we can maintain market share," he said.

## Chancellor may still have the last laugh but not before 1992

The City professed not to like John Major's first Budget. It had willed him to do the Howe hairshirt (1981 model), not the plain monetarist mantle of his immediate predecessor, and raise taxes.

Monetary policy is easier to follow than fiscal policy and the "fine tuning" beloved of earlier Chancellors and Treasury mandarins. The objective is to bring down the rate of inflation, which is published every month. The March retail price index - 7.5 per cent - was announced yesterday. The instrument for cutting the RPI is dear money, which slows the economy and reduces the upward pressures on prices. Again, we can all see, and feel, monetary policy in bank and building society lending rates and the cost of credit.

The Chancellor believes domestic activity is slowing rapidly in response to 15 per cent base rates. Many City economists think he is wrong and, therefore, regard his inflation forecasts as too optimistic - unless he raises bank base rates to 16 per cent. The dissenting view has already led to some selling of sterling, and if this were to gather momentum, base rates would have to go up. In any event, they are unlikely to come down for at least six months, though the Treasury's inflation forecast for the end of the year - 7.4 per cent after rising this month to a peak of 9 per cent - seems to assume base rates down by a point or possibly two before the year is out.

In not going all out to crush inflation through higher taxes and a big Budget surplus, Mr Major may have shown that he is too weak for the office. On the other hand, he may be proved right and chagrined City analysts wrong. With his interesting array of tax changes and concessions, he played an adept political hand.

If he succeeds in bringing inflation to 5 per cent in a year's time, reflation and lower mortgage rates will be in the air



KENNETH FLEET

and Conservative prospects of winning a general election would be infinitely brighter than they are immediately after Mid-Staffordshire. *Annus mirabilis* followed by *annus mirabilis*.

The City is preoccupied by four things: economic developments overseas and their reflection in interest rates and financial markets - particularly the US, Japan and West Germany, over which this country has no control; inflation and a vulnerable pound; high interest rates; survival of the Thatcher Government. The British equity market is restrained by high yields on cash and gilt-edged and the spectacle of a beleaguered and unsure Cabinet fronting a fractious and fearful party. Both were already largely discounted in the general level of share prices before Budget and, by-election. By conventional yardsticks, equities may be expensive compared with bonds, but they are not historically dear and they are historically low in relation to Wall Street. They are, however, unlikely to make an early upward move without a change in the political weather.

Any significant change would register in public opinion polls. For the Tories to get home again with an overall majority requires at least 40 per cent of the vote, may be proved right and chagrined City analysts wrong. With his interesting array of tax changes and concessions, he played an adept political hand.

Government popularity in the polls is related to four main economic factors - inflation, unemployment, mortgage rates and sterling. Taking its own

central economic forecasts - and making allowances for "mid-term blues" and temporary factors such as the Falklands conflict and the Westland affair - P&D concludes that the Tories cannot reach 40 per cent until the first half of 1992. This points to a late election, after the resumption of non-inflationary economic growth in 1991, accompanied by lower interest rates. It would still be close.

It also suggests that unless the economy is slowed almost to a stop this year, the Chancellor "may well not be in a position to restore the Government's reputation for competence in economic management in time for the next election. The electorate may then conclude that Mr Smith offers a more palatable alternative."

The City would not like that, nor, I suspect, would a working majority of the populace. Take taxation, as it is much in our minds this week. Sensibly, Labour leaders have been less specific than of yore in spelling out in advance what they would do. But fair guesses include a series of income tax bands, above a new basic rate of 20 per cent, to a top rate of 50 per cent; abolishing the upper earnings limit for National Insurance contributions, making the top rate of tax on earned income 59 per cent; abolishing higher-rate tax relief on mortgage interest; reduced capital gains tax allowances; tighter inheritance tax rules; "health and environmental taxes; and a successor to the poll tax, involving property values and payments related to the occupant's top rate of income tax.

One of the great beauties of the reformed tax system that Labour would inherit from the Thatcher years was described by Stephen Bennet at Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte's invariable Budget breakfast seminar in these simple words: "There is nowhere to shelter. The path is left wide open to heavy increases in tax rates by a new Government."

## Bank avoids Rentaminster bid

By Matthew Bond

Scandinavian Bank has avoided having to make a full offer for Rentaminster, the employment and training services group, by selling a 29.9 per cent stake to Minerva Capital Corporation, a private company controlled by Mr Robert Kermanshahchi, the Anglo-Iranian businessman.

The bank had been facing the prospect of making a full bid since last August when an institutional placing and an unsuccessful rights issue left the bank, together with the stockbroker Breenin Dolphin, with more than 50 per cent of the company. Three weeks

ago, the Stock Exchange gave the bank a final 21 days to reduce its stake or make a bid.

Back in January, the bank and the stockbroker had granted Minerva an option over their entire 55 per cent stake in Rentaminster at 65p per share, the figure at which the placed shares and the rights issue shares had been priced last summer.

It was at that point that Scandinavian Bank undertook to bid for Rentaminster if the deal did not go through.

In the event, it did. However, Mr Kermanshahchi, apart from buying only 29.9

per cent, has negotiated a lower price and is paying only 50p a share, half a million pounds less than the bank and the broker had wanted.

In addition, the consideration of £1.9 million need not be paid for five years, although Minerva can opt to pay it earlier.

Rentaminster's shares closed at 48p, valuing the company at £5.4 million.

In addition, the bank has offered Rentaminster a £5.65 million loan facility for five years.

Rentaminster's £2.9 million of existing debt is to be repaid

by a property disposal. Any shortfall from the sale is to be waived by the bank.

The restructuring is accompanied by a shake-up in the board room.

Out go the brothers Mr Rodney Toogood and Mr Neville Toogood, who brought Rentaminster to the Third Market in 1988.

In comes Mr Kermanshahchi as chief executive and acting chairman, accompanied by Mr Neil McGowan, former finance director of International Disinfectants & Vintners, who joins as finance director.

## H&C puts division up for sale

Harrisons & Crosfield is selling its general trading division to further its plan to move from plantations and commodity trading into chemicals, timber, building supplies and agricultural products. The group expects proceeds of £40 million and has agreed the sale of Tait & Co in Taiwan and Harrisons & Crosfield (Malaysia).

### Ayrshire buy

Ayrshire Metal is buying ASK McGowan, a steel stockholder, for a maximum £3.64 million. Ayrshire's pre-tax profits rose from £2.47 million to £3.5 million in 1989 on turnover of £36.8 million (£31.9 million). The total dividend rises to 7.5p (£2.5p).

### McLaughlin up

Pre-tax profits of McLaughlin & Harvey edged ahead from £2.1 million to £2.2 million last year on turnover up from £94.1 million to £106.9 million. The total dividend improves by 1p to 10p (£3.1p).

### Russell down

Alexander Russell saw pre-tax profits slip £639,000 to £2.1 million for the nine months to end-December.

## LBMS issues profit warning after contracts are deferred

By Melinda Wittstock

Shares in Learmonth & Burchett Management Systems fell 5p to 133p after the specialist computer services and software group gave a warning that there would be "no material increase" in second-half profits.

The group, which had said pre-tax profits for the period would "significantly surpass" the £513,000 interims reported in December, blamed the adjustment on the deferral of £500,000 worth of software contracts to its next financial year, beginning May 1.

Mr Christopher Fawcett, finance director, said the delay

was not the company's fault. "One of our clients is transferring to a new IBM system and has decided to wait until firm release dates have been given for all the other software. But ours is ready," he said.

The delay means LBMS, which says trading is buoyant, will not fully benefit from the contracts in the 1990-91 financial year either - profits from training and consultancy work will not come through until 1991-92.

Analysts expect pre-tax profits of between £1 million and £1.2 million for the year to end-April, even though

LBMS's new range of software was launched too late in the financial year to provide any benefit. LBMS reported pre-tax profits of £1.45 million in the previous year.

The company said three December acquisitions worth £2.48 million and another £500,000 deal last month would not contribute to this year's profits, though once LBMS's rationalization programme is complete, the new operations will make a "significant" contribution.

Shareholders are being told to expect a final dividend not less than last year's 1.4p.

## Moss resigns as JMD chief

By Jeremy Andrews



Moss: still on the board

Mr Keith Moss has resigned as chief executive of JMD, the former retail design consultant which moved into fluffy toys and greetings cards.

He took the helm in June 1988 when his Capital and Investment Securities was reversed into the company in the hope of reviving its fortunes.

Last month JMD an-

nounced that bid talks, which had been in progress since October, had been formally terminated.

Mr Moss will remain on JMD's board as a non-executive director and Mr Richard Beecham has been appointed chief executive. The shares were unchanged at 9p on the news, capitalizing the equity at £4.4 million.

## Charter to sell stake in mine

By Colin Campbell Mining Correspondent

Charter Consolidated, the industrial holding company, has put up for sale its majority shareholding in Beralt Tin & Wolfram, owner of the only tungsten mine in Europe at Panasqueira, near Fundao, Portugal.

Charter says Beralt is the group's only hard-rock mine, and continued ownership does not fit its strategy.

Beralt has laboured under depressed tungsten prices for months and has been an underperforming asset. It has between £10 million and £12 million capital employed.

Mr Jeffrey Herbert, Charter's chief executive, said yesterday interested buyers had already "been knocking on our door."

Charter's immediate partner in Beralt is Union Carbide. The Portuguese Government holds a minority equity stake in Beralt's operating company.

Minorco, the cash-rich investment group holding a 36 per cent stake in Charter, is known to want to expand its natural resources portfolio. It said: "We note Charter's announcement, but have nothing to say at this stage."

Charter shares traded at 434p.

## O'Brien moves to Ratners

By Gillian Bowditch

Mr Gary O'Brien, deputy group finance director of Burton, is to become finance director of Ratners Group. He had been due to join Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group.

Mr O'Brien will replace Mr Andrew Coppel who has been with Ratners for three years.

Mr Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive of Ratners, said Mr Coppel's departure was amicable and by mutual consent.

Mr Coppel's skills are geared towards making acquisitions and raising the finance for them. The group intends to slow down in this area, said Mr Ratner.

This will come as a relief to

many in the City who have been worried that Ratners would make another large acquisition since news last month that the group had looked at the possibility of acquiring Dixons.

Ratners' annual results are due on April 26 and Mr Coppel will make the presentation to the City before he leaves at the end of the month.

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## Hope for Hawke as rivals falter in Australian election battle

# Peacock fails to add up Down Under

From David Tweed, Sydney

The Australian Labor Government is today asking for a fourth consecutive term of office in an environment of record high home loans and interest rates hovering around 17.5 per cent.

Inflation refuses to fall below 8 per cent, net foreign debt is Aus\$115 billion (£55 billion), and Australians feel that living standards during the 1980s plunged.

The economy is in such a parlous state that observers thought the Liberal-National Party coalition, led by Mr Andrew Peacock, would be able to walk away when the poll was announced by the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, a month ago.

But observers now feel that Mr Peacock may not win because of poor presentation of the Liberal and National parties' Economic Action Plan,

released in October. It has many strong policies that Mr Peacock has simply failed to sell to the electorate.

A leading tenet was an attack on the Government's industrial relations accord, under which employers and unions reached consensus on wages based on productivity arrangements under the aegis of the Industrial Relations Commission.

The Economic Action Plan outlined the shift of focus for wage determination at the workplace through voluntary agreements. Added to this would be voluntary unionism, secret ballots and encouragement of employees' participation in incentive schemes.

The fear accompanying this proposal is that industrial relations would collapse into a mire of confrontation. But asked how he would restrain powerful unions from laying the

groundwork for a wage explosion, Mr Peacock replied: "Under our system, which allows for voluntary agreement to be voluntarily agreed to, there would have to be an agreement by employer and employee, firstly to move away from the centralized system and to operate in terms of reaching voluntary agreement. It has to be acceptable to both sides. Otherwise, there is no agreement."

Mr Peacock says that Australia must quicken the pace of economic adjustment, but refuses to adopt a recommendation that all industry protection be abolished by 2000.

He says that Australia must have a tighter fiscal policy, but then offers voters an expensive family tax-relief package, and makes other unfunded commitments, creating suspicion that the budget surplus will be eroded. The rhetoric appears to be inconsis-

tent, Mr Peacock says that he will inherit a mess from the Government, but promises lower interest rates, lower taxes, lower inflation, higher productivity and no rise in unemployment.

The electorate appears not to believe that he can deliver.

Mr Peacock was recently asked how the Liberals expected to achieve their promise of "sustainable lower interest rates." He replied: "What it means is that I will be firmer in my pronouncements on the Sunday after the election, and before being sworn in, so that the market knows absolutely what our determination is to move on a co-ordinated range of economic programmes which will get interest rates down in the manner that I constantly refer to." After such an answer, the electorate is no nearer to knowing.

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

# Share prices shrug off result of by-election

● Frankfurt — The DAX index closed 13.14 points, or 0.7 per cent, higher at 1,932.12.

It also affected the equity market, where prices continued to be squeezed higher on the last day of the volatile two-week Budget account. Fund managers were unwilling to open positions in the first quarter, drew to a close and market-makers seemed content to maintain their positions with turnover sliding to only 330 million shares. But a firm start to trading on Wall Street ensured that prices closed near their best levels.

The FT-SE 100 index was 23.8 up at 2,282.7 at 4 pm — a rise on the account of 33 points. The FT index of 30 shares also rose 10.8 to 1,789.9.

Among the leaders, Smith New Court, the broker, came to the rescue of Marks and Spencer with a buy recommendation, lifting the price 3½p to 196½p. M&S upset the City this week by awarding a 26 per cent pay rise, spread over three years, to its employees.

**Hawker Siddeley rose 12p to 645p ahead of its annual**

results next week, while Vickers hardened 4p to 216p after a presentation at Kleinwort Benson.

Glaxo spent another nervous day before closing a further 1p firmer at 785p. The latest trials on Zofran, its anti-vomiting drug, which is used

710p. BZW concludes that market fears are unfounded, although it is difficult to predict sales with any real degree of accuracy. Sales in the current year are likely to grow from £134 million to £217 million but the final outcome will be influenced by reduc-

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and confectionery group, was a weak market, falling 9p to 319p amid mounting speculation that it was about to take to the acquisition trail again. Dealers say it wants to buy the soft drinks interests of Brierley. They estimate that Cadbury has paid out £1 billion in

in cancer treatment, have proved disappointing. UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, says the shares are fully valued.

Barclays de Zotte Wedd's long-awaited assessment of Retrovir, Wellcome's anti-Aids drug, finally landed on

tions in the price and the dosage. Interim figures for the current year may disappoint, but BZW is forecasting growth in earnings per share of 38 per cent a year during the next three years. So it continues to rate the shares as a buy.

**Reed International**, which

fund managers' desks, adding a further 7p to the shares at

In the past couple of years, Reed has made a number of sizeable acquisitions and they are expected to make a significant contribution to earnings.

Miss Bronwen Maddox, an analyst at Kleinwort, says: "Reed has moved to cut costs much faster than anyone expected." She is forecasting pre-tax profits of £295 million for the year to the end of this month after an exceptional profit of £26 million. A figure of £315 million has been pencilled in for 1991.

**Mountheigh**, the property development specializing in retail sites, has finally severed its connections with Storehouse, the Habitat-Mothercare to Richards and B&S retailer, which its former chairman, Mr Tony Gwyn, wanted to bid for a few years ago. Mountheigh has sold its remaining 7 million shares, or 1.7 per cent stake, in the market-place for an undisclosed price. The Storehouse price held steady on the news at 120p. When Mountheigh announced the sale, Gwyn wanted to make a bid, shares in Storehouse were changing hands at about the 400p level. Mountheigh was unchanged at 141p.

## Michael Clark

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## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**

# Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Stanley	Building Roads	
2	Lykes (S)	Textiles	
3	Bank of Ireland	Banking	
4	Wolfeborough Park	Chemicals, Plastics	
5	Glen (S)	Industries L-R	
6	MSI Int	Industries L-R	
7	Newsprint (S)	Building Roads	
8	United Newspapers (S)	Building Roads	
9	Wilson Bowles	Building Roads	
10	Abney	Chemicals, Plastics	
11	Croft	Chemicals, Plastics	
12	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	
13	Pepper	Industries L-R	
14	RFB Ind (S)	Building Roads	
15	Scott & Robertson	Industries L-R	
16	Capital Radio	Leisure	
17	Low & Bonar	Industries L-R	
18	United Int	Oil/Gas	
19	Alfred (S)	Banking	
20	Enterprise (S)	Oil/Gas	
21	Wolsey	Industries L-R	
22	Wardle Stores Plc	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	STC (S)	Banking	
24	TSE (S)	Banking	
25	Black (S)	Building Roads	
26	South West	Water	
27	Br Vita	Industries L-R	
28	AB Elect	Electronics	
29	Yorkshire Water	Water	
30	Industries A-D	Industries A-D	
31	Sinclair (Wm)	Industries L-R	
32	Cross Virella (S)	Drugs, Stores	
33	Clind Co	Chemicals, Plastics	
34	United Breweries (S)	Food	
35	Evolve	Chemicals, Plastics	
36	Barratt Dens	Building Roads	
37	Davies & Mee 'A'	Industries L-R	
38	Whitbread 'A' (S)	Breweries	
39	Victors	Industries L-R	
40	Bank of Scotland	Banking	
41	Bowater	Industries L-R	
42	ML Hops	Industries L-R	
43	Western Selection	Electronics	
44	Evered	Building Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was shared by three people, receiving £666.67 each. The winners were: Mr Derek Biddle of Ewell, Surrey; Mr Frederick Harris of Blean Hill, near Canterbury, Kent; and Mrs Margaret Watson of Ormskirk, Lancashire.

BRITISH FUNDS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

UNDATED			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

INDEX-LINKED			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Strong finish to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 12. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day March 26. Settlement day April 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (S) denotes Alpha Stocks.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Stanley	Building Roads	
2	Lykes (S)	Textiles	
3	Bank of Ireland	Banking	
4	Wolfeborough Park	Chemicals, Plastics	
5	Glen (S)	Industries L-R	
6	MSI Int	Industries L-R	
7	Newsprint (S)	Building Roads	
8	United Newspapers (S)	Building Roads	
9	Wilson Bowles	Building Roads	
10	Abney	Chemicals, Plastics	
11	Croft	Chemicals, Plastics	
12	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	
13	Pepper	Industries L-R	
14	RFB Ind (S)	Building Roads	
15	Scott & Robertson	Industries L-R	
16	Capital Radio	Leisure	
17	Low & Bonar	Industries L-R	
18	United Int	Oil/Gas	
19	Alfred (S)	Banking	
20	Enterprise (S)	Oil/Gas	
21	Wolsey	Industries L-R	
22	Wardle Stores Plc	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	STC (S)	Banking	
24	TSE (S)	Banking	
25	Black (S)	Building Roads	
26	South West	Water	
27	Br Vita	Industries L-R	
28	AB Elect	Electronics	
29	Yorkshire Water	Water	
30	Industries A-D	Industries A-D	
31	Sinclair (Wm)	Industries L-R	
32	Cross Virella (S)	Drugs, Stores	
33	Clind Co	Chemicals, Plastics	
34	United Breweries (S)	Food	
35	Evolve	Chemicals, Plastics	
36	Barratt Dens	Building Roads	
37	Davies & Mee 'A'	Industries L-R	
38	Whitbread 'A' (S)	Breweries	
39	Victors	Industries L-R	
40	Bank of Scotland	Banking	
41	Bowater	Industries L-R	
42	ML Hops	Industries L-R	
43	Western Selection	Electronics	
44	Evered	Building Roads	

BREWERIES			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

BUILDING, ROADS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

FINANCE, LAND			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

FOODS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

L-R			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

DRAPERY, STORES			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

HOTELS, CATERERS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

O-N			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

INSURANCE			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

LEISURE			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

MINING			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

OVERSEAS TRADERS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

PROPERTY			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

SHOE, LEATHER			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TEXTILES			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TOBACCO			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TRANSPORT			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

OIL, GAS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

WATER			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

ELECTRICALS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

# Portfolio PLATINUM

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OVERSEAS TRADERS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

PROPERTY			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

SHOE, LEATHER			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TEXTILES			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TOBACCO			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

TRANSPORT			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

OIL, GAS			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

WATER			
Name	High	Low	Stock Price

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**Giving It Away**

**Inflation-hit Savings**

**WESTVIA Framlington finale**

**Counting Expenses**

**Funds without risk on the way**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 86.1 (day's range 85.6-86.1)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market Rates for March 23

	Rate	Cable	1 month	3 month
New York	1.0390-1.0400	1.0025-1.0035	0.91-0.909	2.69-2.57
London	1.6777-1.5873	1.5533-1.5988	0.93-0.289	0.70-0.829
Amsterdam	1.0270-1.0280	1.0270-1.0280	1.15-1.14	3.49-3.48
Brussels	56.34-57.04	56.84-57.04	24-22.0	71-67
Frankfurt	10.9998-10.9810	10.9898-10.9810	9-8.29	9-8.49
Copenhagen	1.0270-1.0280	1.0270-1.0280	1.15-1.14	3.49-3.48
Paris	2.7292-2.7438	2.7403-2.7438	11-11.4	4-4.49
Geneva	1.0270-1.0280	1.0270-1.0280	1.15-1.14	3.49-3.48
Madrid	173.99-177.17	173.73-177.17	27-27.9	11-11.4
Milan	2004.58-2002.47	2018.00-2022.47	5-5.39	14-12.9
Stockholm	10.5388-10.5388	10.5718-10.5388	3-3.39	11-11.4
Oslo	1.0270-1.0280	1.0270-1.0280	1.15-1.14	3.49-3.48
Paris	8.1659-8.2293	8.1659-8.2293	3-3.39	11-11.4
Stockholm	9.5390-9.5898	9.5776-9.5898	1-1.4	11-11.4
Zurich	1.0270-1.0280	1.0270-1.0280	1.15-1.14	3.49-3.48
Vienna	16.130-19.3342	19.3001-19.3342	9-9.49	30-27.49
Zurich	2.4124-2.4237	2.4239-2.4349	11-11.4	3-3.39

Premium for per. Discount = dis.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	7,958.99-9,036.01
Australia dollar	2,143.6-2,147.0
Barrat denari	0.268-0.269
Brazil cruzado	59.91-10.62-55.58
Cyprus pound	0.757-0.769
France franc	1.0000-1.0000
Greece dracma	259.55-263.78
Hong Kong dollar	12.5290-12.5340
India rupee	4.399-4.409
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4675-0.473
Malaysia ringgit	3.7659-3.769
New Zealand dollar	2.3567-2.372
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9490-6.000
Switzerland franc	0.70-0.71
3 Africa rand (nfi)	0.9449-0.135
5 Africa rand (nfi)	2.2049-2.212
U.S. dollar	3.8575-3.8575

\*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by  
Barclay and Barclays Bank QTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES									
Ireland	1.5629-1.5690	Denmark	6.5150-6.5200	Italy	1252.5-1260.0				
Singapore	1.5800-1.5810	N Germany	1.7050-1.7070	Belgium (Com)	33.35-33.48				
Amsterdam	2.7292-2.7438	Switzerland	1.5595-1.5705	Hong Kong	81.25-81.27				
Australia	1.2371-1.1370	Netherlands	1.8170-1.8190	Portugal	150-150.10				
Frankfurt	1.7765-1.7776	France	5.4750-5.7470	Spain	109.18-109.29				
Sweden	1.0270-1.0280	Italy	153-153.25	U.S. dollar	12.00-12.01				
Norway	6.0030-6.0090	Rates supplied by Barclays Bank QTS and Saxo							

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates % Clearing Bank 15 Finance House 15%

Overnight (nfi) % 15% Low 13 Week: base 14%

Discounted %

Savings: 2 mth (Discount %)

1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 9 mth: 15% 12 mth: 15%

Selling: 2 mth - 14% 3 mth - 14% 6 mth - 14% 9 mth - 14% 12 mth - 14%

Trade bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 9 mth: 15% 12 mth: 15%

1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 9 mth: 15% 12 mth: 15%

Local Authority Deposits (%)

1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 9 mth: 15% 12 mth: 15%

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1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 6 mth: 15% 9 mth: 15% 12 mth: 15%

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Germany	7 day	1 month	3 mth	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth
France	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
UK	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Denmark	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
France	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Germany	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Italy	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Japan	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Netherlands	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Portugal	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Spain	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
Switzerland	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth
U.S.	7 mth	9 mth	12 mth	15 mth	18 mth	24 mth

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: Feb 26, 1990. Agreed rates March 28, 1990 to April 24, 1990.

### THIRD MARKET

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES						
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
<b>FT-SE 100</b>											
Mar 90	2273.0	2285.0	2272.0	2284.0	6170	Previous open interest 25500					
Jun 90	2312.0	2333.0	2311.0	2330.0	1300						
<b>Three Month Sterling</b>											
Jun 90	81.23					Previous open interest 139170					
Sep 90	81.25	81.26	81.23	81.22	814						
Sep 90	84.90	85.04	84.90	84.90	10072						
<b>Three Month Eurodollar</b>											
Jun 90	91.26	91.28	91.20	91.23	5430	Previous open interest 25430					
Sep 90	91.27	91.28	91.21	91.22	814						
<b>Three Month Euro DM</b>											
Jun 90	91.10	91.28	91.11	91.13	16704	Previous open interest 53647					
Sep 90	90.82	91.05	90.80	90.91	4476						
<b>Three month ECU</b>											
Jun 90	89.95	89.97				Previous open interest 4221					
Sep 90	89.02	89.07	88.95	89.00	30						
<b>US Treasury Bond</b>											
Jun 90	93-17					Previous open interest 4940					
Sep 90	93-17	93-26	93-01	93-04	1908						
<b>Long Gilt</b>											
Jun 90	80-24	81-17				Previous open interest 34485					
Sep 90	80-24	80-20	80-18	80-20	29857						
<b>Japanese Govt Bond</b>											
Jun 90	84.44	85.00				Previous open interest 674					
Sep 90	84.44	85.00	84.28	85.00	50						
<b>German Govt Bond</b>											
Jun 90	83.51	83.58				Previous open interest 28184					
Sep 90	83.70	83.82	82.90	82.98	88220						
Sep 90	83.70	83.82	82.97	82.98	178						

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## FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY MARCH 24 1990

Lindsay Cook examines some of the implications of Major's Budget for savers

## Escaping the perils of composite rate tax

## BUDGET

## Giving It Away

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## Big gains for Toyboys under 65



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## INSURANCE

## Counting Expenses

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## Funds without risk on the way

Unit trusts which make your money grow without putting it at risk could be on sale in bank and building society branches by the end of the year. The funds will help to bridge the gap between deposit accounts and shares, and could bring in up to £100 million in new savings each month (Jon Ashworth writes).

Such investments have only been available in Britain through offshore subsidiaries before, but a change in the rules proposed this week by the Securities and Investments Board will allow them to be sold in the High Street for the first time.

The offshore funds at present take the form of index-tracking bonds which promise 90 per cent or more back if money is locked away for a year or more. These place 90 per cent of the money in a certificate of deposit, and use options to speculate on movements in a stock market index.

Banks and building societies will be keen to keep their new products as simple as possible to start with. The easiest choice would be to follow the route of 90/10 funds.

These are one of three new kinds of fund which could be on sale by the autumn.

Previously, tax problems and the lack of a regulatory structure, have kept such funds from being sold widely in Britain. Now plans have been put forward for a new structure, and the Budget ended fears that futures and options funds would be taxed too harshly.

The Unit Trust Association has welcomed proposals for the new trusts. Mr Tony Smith, the chief executive, said their launch would broaden the market and help keep London at the forefront of world developments.

Housewives and other non-taxpayers will not have to wait until April next year to escape composite rate tax on their savings in British building societies and banks.

This week's Budget announced the scrapping of CRT on April 6 1991, but anyone who invests in a building society or bank one year term account on April 6 this year could escape the tax.

The interest on such one year bonds is usually paid at the end of the term and will therefore have basic rate tax deducted under the new system. This, unlike CRT, can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. But to take advantage savers will have to tie their money up for a year and forego any interest payments before April 6, 1991. But it could be worth up to £660 to a wife with no other earnings.

There are 14 million non-taxpayers who can benefit from this change to the treatment of savings without waiting as long as the Government intended or transferring their savings offshore.

The largest building society, the Halifax, at present offers a one year bond paying 12.25 per cent net of tax, which will become 16.33 per cent when a

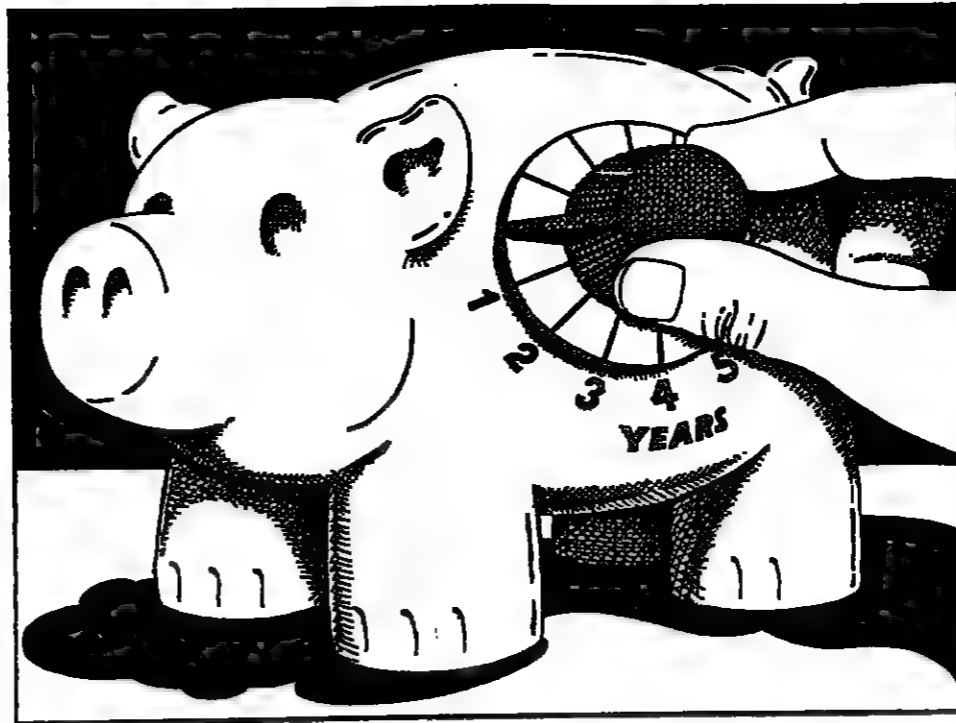
non-taxpayer claims back the tax paid.

The Abbey National, Nationwide Anglia, Bradford & Bingley and Cheltenham & Gloucester do not have a one year bond on offer at present, although it is likely they will launch them by April 6.

The Woolwich, Leeds Permanent, Alliance & Leicester, Britannia and Yorkshire building societies all offer one year accounts paying interest at the end of the term, as do most of the High Street banks.

The scrapping of CRT was forced on the Government by independent taxation. With it, up to £5 billion a year could have been lost to building societies in savings. Smaller societies which could not afford to set up offshore subsidiaries in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man, which can pay interest gross, faced takeover or merger if money had flooded out when married women receive their own personal tax allowance in April. For the first time this will enable them to set the allowance against interest on savings.

Most of the top 10 societies have set up offshore subsidiaries in an attempt to retain



the savings of the 5 million wives who will become non-taxpayers as a result of independent taxation.

While the offshore savings institutions do not report the interest paid to British res-

idents to the Inland Revenue, building societies and banks are compelled to report the interest earned on larger accounts.

At present building societies provide the Inland Revenue

with details of all savers who receive £1,600 or more in interest. Banks have to list all who receive more than £500.

They are likely to be brought into line at the lower level as the Inland Revenue

and organizations work out a system to police the scrapping of CRT.

From April 6 next year non-taxpayers will be able to self-certify themselves as such when they open accounts and will then have their interest paid gross. Parents will be able to do this for children.

Before then the Government will have to decide whether money saved by children, which comes originally from their parents, will continue to be taxed as if it still belonged to the parents. It could become very complicated if children could only earn interest gross on money from grandparents and sources other than their parents.

The self-certification scheme is not expected by the Government to be used by all savers who qualify. It calculates that the scrapping of CRT, which is currently charged at 22 per cent of the interest earned, and replacing it with basic rate tax at 25 per cent will produce an additional £550 million revenue in 1991-92. This figure is given in the Red Book published on Budget day.

The gain is because there are 20 million savers who are taxpayers compared with 14

million non-taxpayers. But more importantly the Inland Revenue expects that only a small proportion of qualifying savers will apply for self-certification. "There is a tremendous education job to do," said a spokeswoman.

If every saver, who is a non-taxpayer, arranges to receive interest gross or claims back the basic rate tax deducted the scrapping of CRT will have a neutral effect on the amount of tax collected.

The Government will be examining cash deposits in personal equity plans over the next year and deciding whether these will continue to be subject to CRT or whether they will become subject to income tax for the first time.

● The Halifax Building Society is to offer time deposits from Monday in preparation for independent taxation. These deposits require at least £50,000 to be invested for a fixed time, with no withdrawals, and are at present the only building society and bank accounts, which can pay interest gross. £50,000 would take a non-taxpayer over his or her personal allowance when deposited for a year but they are available for periods from one month.

## Tessa's virtues queried by banks and societies

After the initial euphoria greeting the Budget for savings, building societies and banks were less sure yesterday of the virtues of Tessa — the new Tax Exempt Special Savings Account — to be launched on January 1.

They predict that the new five year accounts, which will be limited to one per adult, will attract little new money to savings but will largely involve savers transferring money from existing accounts within an institution to the new accounts.

Mr Peter Lilley, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said there was "no firm and certain estimate" he could give of the amount of fresh savings the accounts would attract. "The bulk of the money will be coming from liquid deposits in banks and building societies."

The new accounts, which will allow adults to invest up to £9,000 over five years in a tax-exempt bank or building society account, could also prove to be an administrative nightmare. It is intended that savers should be able to

transfer their Tessas from one institution to another and retain the tax advantages.

It will also mean that the banks and societies cannot count on the money remaining with them for the full five years, as they had expected, even though the savers cannot withdraw it without losing the tax advantages.

Banks and building societies will be able to choose whether they offer an interest rate fixed at the outset or a variable rate. Most Tessas are likely to involve the latter.

This means that savers who take out Tessas at attractive rates face being locked in as rates fall.

Banks and building societies will have to collect National Insurance numbers and other details from savers to make sure that people do not hold more than one.

The accounts will allow up to £3,000 to be invested in year one and up to £1,800 in subsequent years up to the £9,000 maximum. While net interest can be withdrawn during the term, any withdrawal of capital during the

five years costs the tax exemption. If someone were to make a withdrawal of capital in year four tax would then be paid for all four years at that stage.

A spokesman for the Abbey National said: "Overall there has got to be an increase in the level of savings with the introduction of the Tessa but much of the money will be migrating from one account to another in the same organization."

"It will take some of the shine off them if savers can move their Tessa from one organization to another in search of the best interest rates."

The Halifax Building Society said that it expected the initial investors to be higher rate taxpayers.

Mr Ian Luder of Arthur Andersen, the accountant, said: "I don't think that it will attract new savings. That slice of savings that can be safely isolated and kept in cash form will be moved. People may also get jittery if interest rates start falling and the equity market is rising. They will feel they are losing out. Peps will have the edge for flexibility."

## An investment plan which sounds too good to be true

By Jon Ashworth

A "too good to be true" investment scheme which uses double tax relief to make your money grow, may be just that — too good to be true.

The scheme, outlined in a letter from John Charcol, the independent broker, tells how clients can invest £33,333 at a cost of only £12,698. It proposes to do this by combining the tax advantages of a personal pension and the Business Expansion Scheme.

What it does not mention is that the scheme will only work with one personal pension — the LAS Private Portfolio — and that there is no guarantee that it will work.

It says: "If a high rate tax payer invests a net £12,698 plus £3,200 per year for five years in this secure investment he can expect in excess of £59,680 in five years' time. This equates to a compound rate of return of more than 22 per cent per annum net of all taxes which is equivalent to a gross rate of return of more than 35 per cent per annum."

"Sounds too good to be true? It is good and it is true and it comes about by obtain-

ing 40 per cent tax relief twice!"

To begin with, a high rate taxpayer would invest £21,165 "in his personal pension plan". The letter does not specify which one, but John Charcol said only the LAS pension is being recommended. After tax relief of 40 per cent, the net cost of the contribution would be £13,000.

So far so good. The pension trustee would then invest £20,364 in the client's personal deposit account — after £801 in charges has been taken off the original contribution. The client would then approach his bank manager for a loan of £20,000 against the money invested by the pension. The idea is then to invest the loan in a BES with a second helping of 40 per cent tax relief.

What is not mentioned is that banks are under no obligation to agree to a loan. Mr Douglas Jones, pensions development manager at LAS, said there was "absolutely no guarantee" that a loan would be agreed.

Mr Jones was not aware of

John Charcol's scheme. The letter continues: "The client makes a net investment of £20,000 from the funds lent to him by the bank in a BESRES IV campus fund which grosses up to an investment of £33,333. Of course you will have to pay the bank interest on the loan which at 16 per cent per annum would cost the client £3,200 per year."

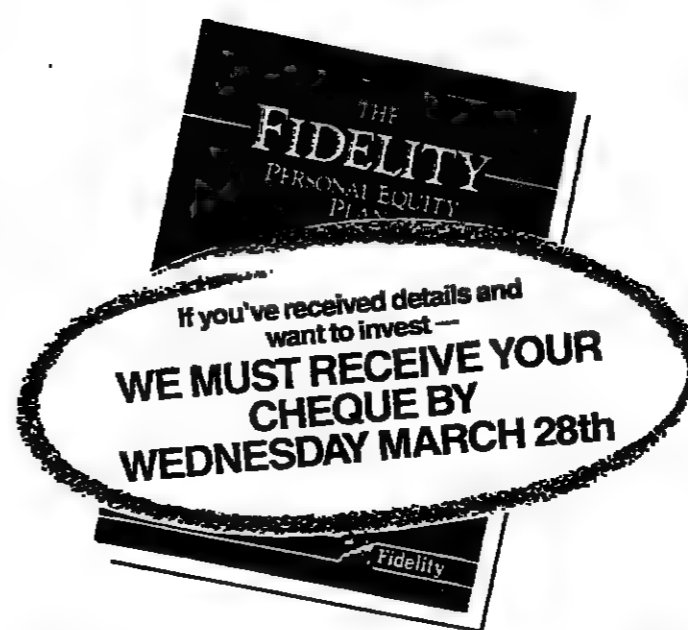
BESRES IV is sponsored by Sun Life, although this is not mentioned. A second letter of introduction stresses any BES scheme will do.

Mr Simon Stürzaker, a consultant with John Charcol Financial Planning, said BESRES campus, which invests in property for Lancaster University, had been chosen because it guaranteed a return of 17 per cent. He said that since the scheme was looking for £10,000 in tax relief, it "would not make sense" unless £10,000 or more was likely to be paid in tax.

Mr Stürzaker said the letter promoting the scheme had been "very selective". It had been sent to clients aged over 45 earning £60,000 or more.

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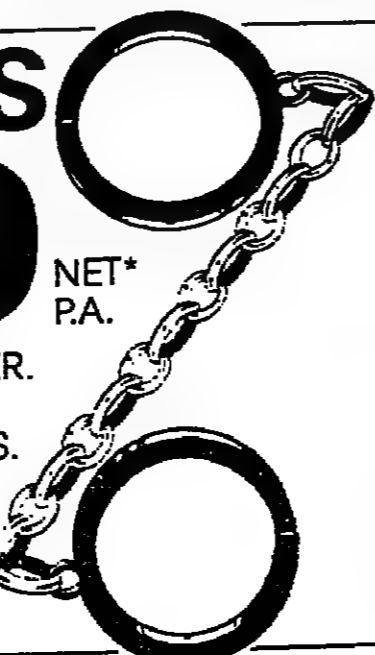


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THE M&G PEP

## Sweet charity as relief lends a helping hand

By Jon Ashworth

Charities were rubbing their hands with glee this week, after a Budget which introduced tax relief on larger single gifts and gave a boost to regular donations. They had asked for more, but were happy with what they got.

Gift Aid will be launched in October to give tax relief on single donations of between £600 and £5 million. Charities will be able to claim basic rate tax back, and donors will also be able to claim higher rate tax relief. A similar relief from Corporation Tax has been granted for companies.

Employees who make regular donations through payroll giving will now be able to donate £50 a month and receive tax relief. The limit was raised from £40 a month, but is still well short of the £100 target which had been campaigned for.

The Charities Aid Foundation, which distributes more than £50 million a year to charities, said the total could double with enough effort. Mr Michael Brophy, the director, said the arrival of Gift Aid would make little difference to gifts from individuals. It would be of far more use to donations from companies which are more likely to be in excess of £500.

But donations made under the scheme must be from an individual taxpayer. Workplace collections for marathon television fund raising events paid by cheque to the appeal by the organizer will not qualify for tax relief.

Nor will public house landlords be able to enhance donations of money collected from customers with the extra tax relief. Even participants in sponsored events will not be deemed to be making an individual donation, said the



More emphasis on companies in Gift Aid launch: Michael Brophy, director of operations

Inland Revenue. Anyone who would like to make donations to several different charities can open an account with the Foundation and then spread their payments through the year.

A donation of £600 would be worth £800 after tax relief, and individuals would be given a chequebook to make payments to charities of their choice.

Opening an account avoids the need to set up a charitable covenant and is a way of

extending Gift Aid to many more people. More than 130,000 accounts have already been opened by companies and individuals.

Save the Children Fund, Britain's largest international child care charity, warmly welcomed the changes. It said Gift Aid was a "streamlining" which would encourage companies to make larger donations. The fund raises nearly £7 million from companies.

The RSPCA, which raised £16 million last year, said it

was delighted with the latest changes. "We are in favour of any moves that may encourage charitable giving," the society added.

The Charities Taxation Reform Group, which represents larger charities such as Oxfam and the RNLI, had called for VAT exemptions over a broad front. It welcomed the new proposals, but was disappointed that no relief from VAT had been granted on alterations and extensions to buildings.

## Tax trap lurking in joint covenants

Charitable covenants are a popular way of giving to charity while also claiming tax relief. The Inland Revenue has issued new guidelines on drawing up a deed of covenant, but has given a warning to married couples.

The arrival of independent taxation may make charitable covenants invalid for millions of non-working wives.

Previously, couples could make a joint covenant as long as one of them had an income.

Now, tax relief will apply only to a working spouse or one with investment income, and anyone without earnings would have to pay the difference to the Revenue.

A deed of covenant is a commitment to pay a fixed amount to charity, usually over at least four years. A taxpayer can deduct basic rate tax from payments. The charity can then claim it back from the Revenue. Higher rate relief can be claimed separately.

BDO Binder Hamlyn, which advises such charities as Mencap and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, has advised couples to check that covenants will be tax efficient.

The Revenue will presume any joint covenants to be made in equal shares, and would require the non-working spouse to make up the tax difference.

Mr Tom Mayhew, partner in charge of BDO's charities unit, said: "Previously hus-

bands and wives were treated as one person for tax purposes. The non-paying spouse should ask to be released by the charity in whose favour the covenant is made.

"They should then enter into another covenant in the name of the taxpaying spouse."

If both spouses work, the covenant should be made by the one paying the higher rate of tax. Relief could then be claimed at the higher level.

## Tax free\* investment

4  
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LAST CHANCE  
SECTION

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## FAMILY MONEY BUDGET '90

Place your bets on inflation for the best possible returns, discovers Barbara Ellis

## When saving turns into a gamble

Saving is more of a multi-choice gamble than neo-puritan references to thrift might suggest.

Savers have to take bets on whether the interest rates they can obtain on their money will outrun inflation — and maybe even the returns on savings vehicles hitched to the retail prices index.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, forecast 7.25 per cent inflation by the end of the year and said that interest rates would stay high.

But economists are generally sceptical about Budget inflation forecasts, recalling Mr Nigel Lawson's 1988 prediction of a 4 per cent year-end rate, against the actual figure of 6.2 per cent. Last year's 5.5 per cent forecast became an actual rise of 7.5 per cent.

Mr Patrick Foley, an economist with Lloyds Bank, said that to reach a forecast of 7.25 per cent, the Chancellor must be assuming a 1.5 per cent cut in the mortgage rate.

"That means the Treasury must be assuming rather low underlying inflation, which seems a bit implausible," he said. Lloyds forecast for inflation at the end of the year is 8 per cent.

Economists at James Capel,

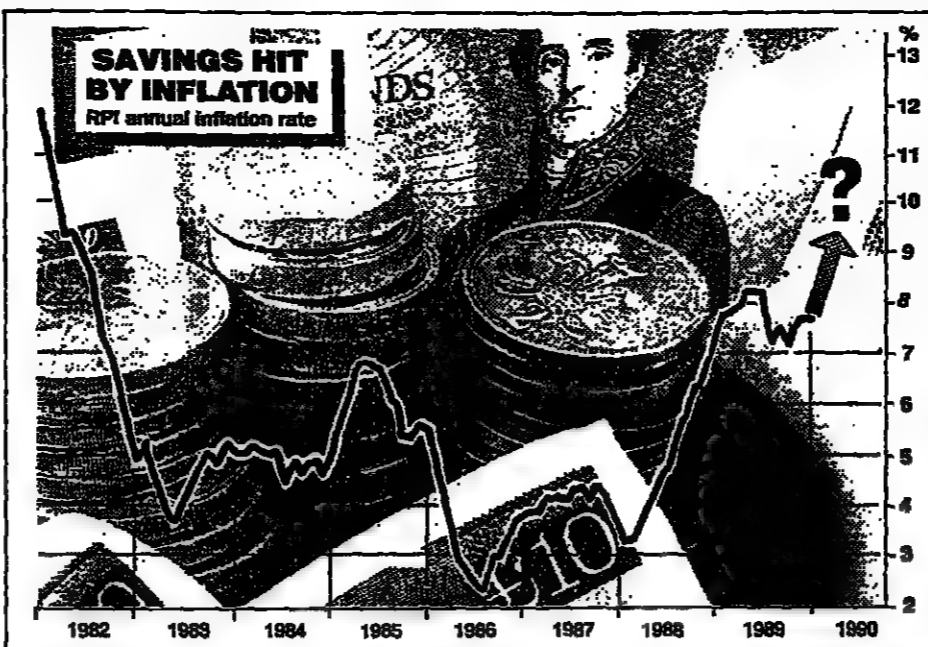
the broker, see inflation reaching 9.3 per cent by August, then dropping back to just over 8 per cent by December. However, they say another 1 per cent rise in mortgage rates could add 0.5 per cent to 0.6 per cent to the RPI, which could push inflation very close to 10 per cent by the summer.

Looking further ahead, there will be a delayed reaction to the weakening pound. In the last year, the trade-weighted index of sterling, based on a value of 100 in 1985, has fallen by 10 per cent, which James Capel reckons will add 1.6 per cent, 3 per cent and 1.7 per cent to the RPI in each of the next three years.

If top savings rates continue at the present level of about 12 per cent net of composite rate tax, savers will be 4.75 per cent ahead of the RPI as forecast by Mr Major or just 2 per cent ahead of the more pessimistic figures.

But it is possible to get a guaranteed 3 per cent to 4.04 per cent above the inflation rate paid free of tax by buying the 4th index-linked issue of National Savings certificates.

In the first year, the certificates earn 3 per cent more than the inflation rate. The



guaranteed extra interest then rises in steps to 6 per cent by the fifth year, and certificates held for that full term average a guaranteed 4.04 per cent on top of inflation.

Savers who put £100 into the fourth index-linked issue a

year ago, buying four £25 certificates, would so far show a return of £10.66.

The return on £100 invested since August 1, 1986, when the 4th issue was launched, currently stands at £37.20. Even so, in 3½ years £1.8 billion

worth of certificates have been issued, compared with £454 million pulled in by non-indexed Capital Bonds in just a year.

However, savers are limited to a maximum of £5,000 worth of index-linked certificates each. Inflation-proofing for larger amounts is available from index-linked gilts, or government fixed interest securities.

Both capital and income are linked to the retail prices index. The stocks are free of capital gains tax but liable to income tax.

Up to £10,000 nominal value of any one gilt can be bought by post via the National Savings Stock Register for commission of about £4 per £1,000, compared with the £15 to £20 minimum commission charged by stockbrokers.

Mr John Buck, a gilts specialist at James Capel says that although the indexed gilts offer protection against inflation, investors are very likely to get a better return on short-term cash deposits over the next couple of months.

He points out that the 2 per cent Treasury Stock 1992 is almost a play on short-term inflation, offering the opportunity to benefit either from continued high inflation under the Conservatives or possibly higher inflation under a Labour government. The real return on the Treasury Stock 1992 is 4.7 per cent plus inflation.

## NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek professional advice before entering into any form of agreement or parting with any money. When replying to box numbers please do not enclose original documentation and mark the box number clearly on the top right hand corner of the envelope and return it to:

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## Making the most of the exemption on capital gains

Capital Gains Tax will become a largely voluntary tax for couples from April 6. Under independent taxation couples will both have an annual CGT exemption of £5,000. The annual exemption, confirmed in the Budget, has been frozen at £5,000 since 1988 when pre-1982 gains were exempted from the tax.

Couples will also be able to each shelter £6,000 worth of British shares in a personal equity plan every year. From April 6 couples could jointly have invested £32,400 in Peps, free of any income or capital gains tax.

At present couples have to share one £5,000 exemption and can each invest £4,800 a year in personal equity plans. Investors are also helped to avoid CGT bills by indexing gains made since March 1982 to inflation. This means that shares bought in April 1982 for £5,000 and sold this month for £12,500 would escape tax if it were the only taxable gain made during the year by an individual or couple. However, if the shares were jointly held by a couple, from next month they could be sold for £17,500 and still avoid tax.

If as part of independent taxation planning shareholdings held by one partner were passed to the other and after April 6 that partner decided to sell them, the gains would be set against the second partner's annual exemption. The

Inland Revenue would only look closely at the deal if it felt the original shareholder still exercised control over them when the shares were disposed of or received the proceeds.

The Inland Revenue said it would not regard a sale as under the control of the original owner if it was made after a couple discussed the market and whether the time was right to sell. But if a husband gave shares to his wife with the express instruction that she sell them on April 6 then it would fall foul of the Revenue.

CGT is charged at an investor's top rate of income tax. Those with a taxable income and taxable gains amounting to less than £20,700 pay 25 per cent on those gains. Above this 40 per cent is charged. It can therefore be tax-efficient for a couple to transfer assets to a basic rate paying partner.

The Inland Revenue estimates that 150,000 people will pay CGT in 1990-91, but a technical expert in the department said it had no way of assessing how much would be transferred between a husband and wife. Such gifts had to be absolute and there was always the danger that the partner might abscond once he or she had the assets.

About one third of the payers of CGT are single and a further sixth are trusts.

Lindsay Cook

## BRIEFINGS

The amount which can be invested in personal equity plans will increase from £4,800 to £6,000 next month, giving married couples the chance of investing up to £12,000 between them. For unit and investment trust Peps, the limit rises from £2,400 to £3,000. Pep unit trusts now only have to invest 50 per cent of their portfolio in UK equities, rather than 75 per cent. The unit trust and investment trust limit for Peps with less than 50 per cent in the UK rises from £750 to £900.

Stamp duty on shares is to be abolished late in 1991 to coincide with the introduction of paperless dealing on the Stock Exchange. Stamp Duty Reserve Tax will also be abolished.

The rate of interest on gross-paid National Savings Income Bonds and Investment Accounts is to rise by 1 per cent.

The annual amount that can be invested tax-free in a friendly society is to be raised from £100 to £150.

The threshold for Inheritance Tax is increased from £118,000 to £128,000.

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## Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

By	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
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£10,000-£24,999	14.00%
£25,000-£49,999	15.00%
£50,000-£500,000	15.25%

## MANXIMUM 90 DAY ACCOUNT

BALANCE	GROSS INTEREST RATE*
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£10,000-£24,999	14.50%
£25,000-£49,999	15.50%
£50,000-£500,000	15.75%

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even higher rates, of up to 15.75%.



## FAMILY MONEY



Board under fire: from left, John Cross, fund manager, Ron Timcke, trustee, Mark St Giles and representative Ann McMeenan

## Framlington on the spot

By Jon Ashworth

Framlington, the investment group which is winding up two of its unit trust personal equity plans, admitted this week that a letter sent to investors had been misleading.

But the group rejected calls for a further meeting of planholders, saying there was not enough time before the plans were closed down.

Mr Mark St Giles, chairman of Framlington, told a meeting of planholders in London on Monday that they faced "a small financial penalty" for switching out of the 1987 and 1988 unit trust plans.

An earlier letter gave the 11,800 unit holders the option of switching into Framlington's new unit trust personal equity plan "free of charge."

Investors were given a choice of transferring into the new Framlington Pep or accepting cash, once the trusts were liquidated on April 4. But there was no mention of



Miller: 'reconsider' call

their right to switch into a plan offered by another unit trust group.

Mr St Giles told the Framlington unit holders that they were likely to enjoy better performance in an expanding fund.

The Pep 87 and Pep 88 funds had a declining number of units. "These funds were static at best and probably

declining in value at worst," he added.

Mr St Giles said that Framlington was receiving nothing out of the deal. He added that about 5,000 unit holders had agreed to accept the roll-over, while 500 had opted for cash.

Mr Tim Miller, a planholder and, as former managing director of Framlington, the person behind the launch of the two personal equity plans, said investors should be allowed more time to consider their options.

He urged Framlington and Mr Ron Timcke, the trustee, to reconsider the decision to wind up the trusts.

Mr Miller, who is now a director of M&G, said Pep 87 and Pep 88 had several unique features which would be lost if they were wound up.

They were the only Peps which held an annual meeting for unit holders at which fund managers could be questioned on investment policy. They

included a detailed annual report on companies which were invested in, and gave investors the right to vote on matters like take-over bids.

Mr St Giles said there was no question of investors being prejudiced by the proposals.

He said the right to switch into a Pep offered by another company was "so obvious" that it had not been felt necessary to state it.

He added that the letter to unit holders had been designed to give "a flavour," rather than swamping them with regulatory matters.

The Securities and Investments Board may refuse to allow a fund to be wound up if it feels there are any circumstances which need to be investigated. It could do so if investors were felt to be prejudiced in any way.

But once a decision to wind up a fund has been taken, the SIB is keen for it to proceed as quickly as possible. Any delay may increase costs for remaining unit holders.

## Poll tax joins line of debits

By Rodney Hobson

After the protests and demonstrations, the reality of the community charge is coming home to people in England and Wales. Bills from local authorities began to drop through letter boxes this week and the rest will be delivered by the end of the month.

Virtually all councils have set the charge level that will take effect from April 1, with the first instalment due then and the second on October 1.

Everyone should have registered by the end of last year. Local authorities have been trying to catch up with those who have not. The Department of the Environment claims there is now almost 100 per cent registration. Failure to register carries a £50 fine.

Local authorities will be offering the same payment methods as were available under the rating system, including standing order and direct debit.

With standing orders, new instructions must be given to the bank to change the amount to be deducted each month. The amount will be stated on the charge notice.

With direct debit, individuals will receive a form from their bank or the local authority to set in place payments. Banks will automatically terminate the direct debit order for rates.

It is worth checking that the correct arrangements are put into effect. Council offices can make mistakes, as Lewisham ratepayers discovered when incorrect amounts were deducted from their accounts by direct debit in December.

Some councils with high charges may find a ceiling put on their spending. The DoE is playing down speculation that 20 councils will be ordered to trim their budgets.

However, bills will be going out before any decision is taken on tax-capping, and should be paid. Any Government-imposed cut in the charge will be knocked off the bill later. Failure to pay up will incur a penalty of up to £200 on top of the charge and can result in imprisonment.

## Where there's a will, Inheritance Assured offers it the postal way

By Jon Ashworth

Inheritance Assured has launched a new postal service to encourage people to make wills.

The company will arrange a simple will for £29.95 plus VAT, and return it within three weeks. A similar will for a spouse or partner will cost £15.

Mr Richard Ireton, who runs the service, said it takes much of the cost and effort out

of making a will. Solicitors often charge £40 or more to make even a simple will, while the cost in London may soar to more than £200.

"DIY" wills sold by stationers are cheap, but may be a false economy," Mr Ireton said. "Home-made wills can often be more dangerous than no will at all."

He added: "Many people don't feel it necessary to make

a will, but this can create all sort of problems." As many as two-in-three people die intestate.

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## Marking-up that extra cover

By Sara McConnell

Any motorist who has had to fight for compensation for a car accident that was not his fault knows that "comprehensive insurance" does not mean what it says. Few policies cover the first £50 or first £100 of a claim, or travel expenses if a car is a write-off, or personal injury or loss of earnings as a result of the accident.

Forcing the other driver to pay for these uninsured losses can be time-consuming and frustrating, not to mention expensive. Cover for legal expenses, at an extra £7 to £10 a year on top of a motor policy, is an apparently cheap way of plugging gaps in that policy. It pays for legal help to recover costs from the other driver and throws the burden of pursuing claims in the courts on to the insurer.

But motorists should check the cost, because some brokers charge double the

going rate for these policies. The average cost of a year's basic legal expenses cover is between £6 and £7 a year, but some brokers are charging up to £14.

Brokers are allowed to charge what they like for these policies, sold as an add-on to motor and household policies.

Legal expenses insurers sell brokers group cover, which works out at an average of £4 to £6, then brokers add their profit margins, which vary considerably. Motorists are unlikely to realize that they may be paying over the odds because cover is fairly cheap.

One legal expenses insurer reported that a broker in the Midlands was charging £13.50 for legal expenses cover bought from the insurer for £4. Other insurers have reported similar instances, although none cited its agents as culprits.

Mr Tony Holdsworth, managing director of DAS Legal Expenses, owned

by Sun Alliance, said: "We sell legal expenses cover at a standard rate of about £4.50, and some brokers sell it on for £8, some as much as £10. But £13.50 is excessive."

Mr Martin Griffiths, motor product manager at the Legal Protection Group, said: "A lot of brokers, especially bucket shop types set themselves up as business advisers or consultants and are keen to put whatever price on cover they feel a client can afford. If a customer has a Ferrari they think he will be able to handle it."

Insurers say that motorists should always shop around for the best price, but that they are better off with legal expenses cover than without.

Mr Alan Wood, managing director of Motorists Legal Protection, said: "If you haven't got legal expenses cover you are treated like dirt by the legal system."

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the socialists. But in so far as Buchanan and Angus are awarded a trophy, it would seem to be claimed by the oldest trust in the UK, Foreign & Colonial, which they describe as "the one to beat". Shares recorded a total re-

Chapman Herald 13.1.90.

In the recent Country NatWest the other twelve leading trusts over Wood Mackenzie survey, The Foreign ten years, five years and one year. and Colonial Investment Trust beat A case of older being wiser, perhaps.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Barbara Ellis on a savings scheme that went sadly wrong

### Fuming over fees plan

More than 10 years of confidently watching bonuses mount up on a school-fees plan ended in disappointment for a former RAF officer, who felt he had been misled when buying the plan and hundreds of other parents may be unwittingly in a similar situation.

The officer's attempts to complain met first with onward referrals, then with a refusal of further assistance from the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra).

The association acknowledged he had possibly been misled, but asserted the Fimbra member concerned had not acted unprofessionally.

In 1978, the RAF officer, a Squadron Leader, consulted the Leeds branch of Towry Law about school fees and was advised to buy three Friends' Provident flexible savings plans, which are open-ended life policies.

The policy can be matured earlier — at any time after 10 years — without the company imposing a surrender penalty," said Towry Law's leaflet, *Cutting the Cost of Private Education*.

The firm's explanatory letter contained more assurances along the same lines saying: "... although you have the maturity value in each year of £2,000, from year 10 onwards you can cash the policy or ... continue the policy to roll up the investment for future years. ..."

Notes appended to the letter included the statement: "All or part of the policy can be cashed at any time after the first 10 years for a guaranteed



"Surely you've been around long enough to cash in your policies?"

sum plus bonus additions in full and without penalty."

A further note read: "Bonuses or profits are added to the value of the policy regularly throughout its term and once allocated cannot subsequently be removed."

However, when he asked Friends' Provident for surrender values for the three policies the estimate was not the £13,000 he had expected — £6,000 plus total bonuses of roughly £7,000 — but £4,116, which was less than the total premiums paid in of £4,508. Three months later, the surrender values were amended to a total of £6,397.

Towry Law's managing director spelled out to the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association (BIIBA), to which the RAF officer had complained, that the policies were flexible savings plans written to age 65.

"For early encashment, guaranteed cash sums are written into the original policy and bonuses are payable on

early encashment in proportion to the guaranteed cash sum," he wrote.

"The bonus notices issued by Friends' Provident are expressed in terms of sum assured and bonuses attaching to date as if the policy were to be maintained to maturity at age 65. This may unfortunately give rise to the impression that the same benefits are available on early encashment, but clearly this would be inequitable."

The RAF officer said: "The policies were implemented without any copy of the policy terms being supplied in advance." Among the terms of the policy was a table of "optional cash values", payable on policies surrendered after 10 years.

However, the RAF officer said he relied on Towry Law's advice, which he interpreted as meaning that after 10 years the surrender or early maturity value of each policy would be £2,000 plus bonuses. The annual bonus notice from

Friends' Provident had appeared to support this view, showing bonuses to date and new bonuses in cash as well as the rate of bonus on the guaranteed amount and the rate on existing bonuses.

In the detailed reply to the BIIBA, Towry Law said its original quote had been for policies to produce a total of £6,000 and that the latest surrender values from Friends' Provident produced £6,550.

Still feeling aggrieved, the RAF officer wrote to Fimbra and had to wait six months for a reply, which amounted to no more than an endorsement of Towry Law's reply to BIIBA.

"It appears that you were possibly misled by the bonus notices, but we do not feel that the member has acted unprofessionally," wrote Mr Graham James, complaints executive. Friends' Provident said there had not been a significant number of complaints about misunderstandings of bonus notices.

### BR ready for on the spot fines

By Brian Collett

In an effort to reduce the pressure on overworked local courts, passengers on British Rail and London Transport trains and buses could soon be fined on the spot for travelling without a ticket.

The fines should discourage fare evasion but would also apply to people who race into a station at the last minute and leap straight on to a train intending to pay at the other end.

The British Railways Penalty Fares Bill, which received Royal Assent in November, will allow inspectors to order ticketless passengers to pay £10 or the single fare to the next stop, whichever is higher. The passenger will then have to

disembark at the next stop and book to his destination.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, The Transport Secretary, has to authorize the scheme for every line individually and so far British Rail has not requested any authorizations. However, British Rail is concentrating at the outset on London suburban routes. "They are the ones with problems," said a British Rail spokesman. London Regional Transport's Bill to impose similar penalties is now before Parliament.

This legislation is asking for £10 penalties on ticketless travellers on underground trains and £5 penalties on

those without tickets on the Docklands Light Railway and London buses.

The watchdog London Regional Passengers' Committee has given its seal of approval on the moves by both of the authorities, with the proviso that stations must display warnings that would-be passengers must not travel without a ticket.

The committee believes the proposed penalties will reduce the need to prosecute fare-dodgers. Passengers would escape the penalties if there was no way of buying a ticket at the departure station. And both authorities will retain the right to prosecute for fare evasion.

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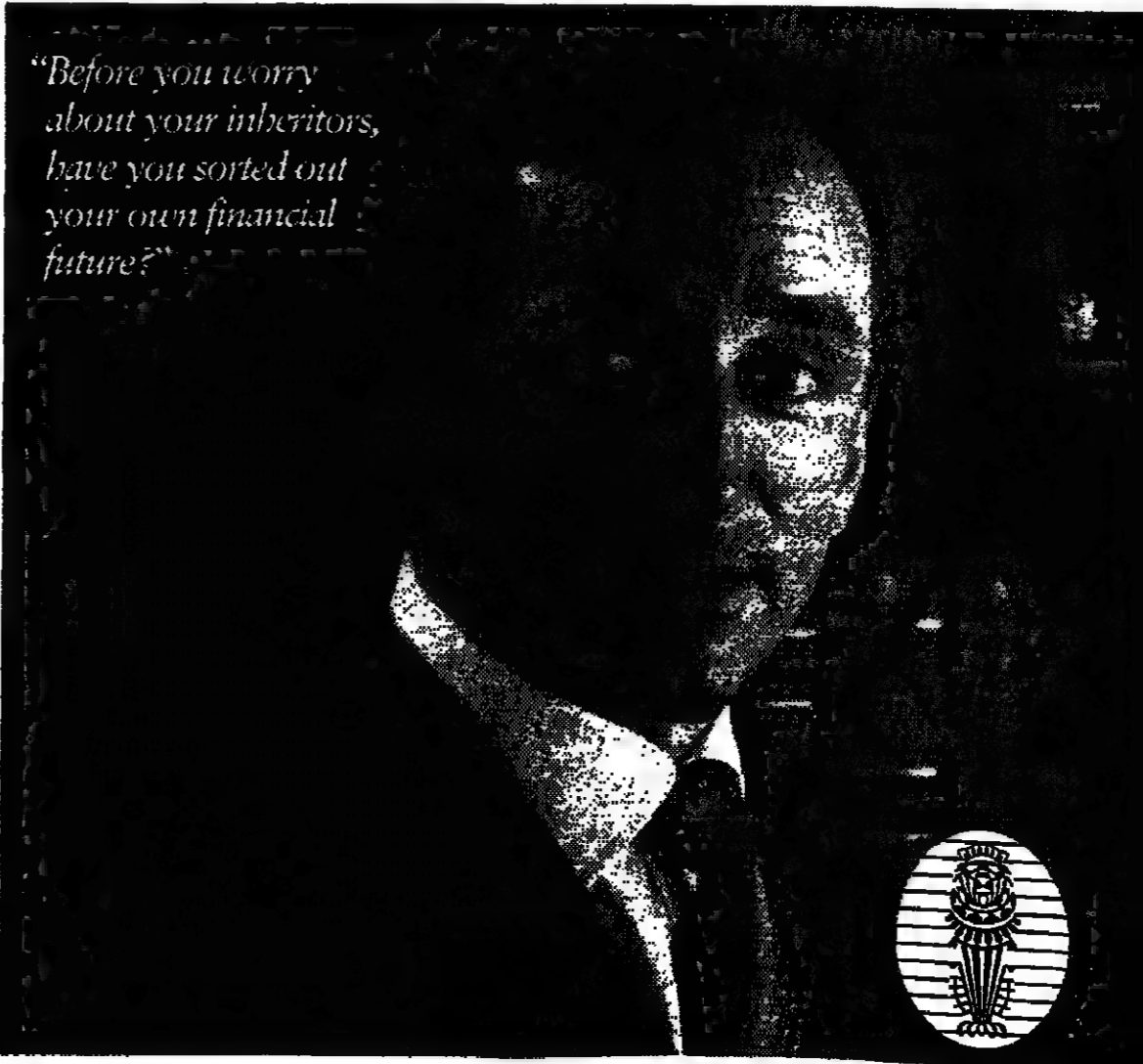
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At all times references to the "Plan Manager" shall mean Henderson Financial Management Limited ("Henderson"), which is a member of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation Limited ("IMRO") and is as such regulated by IMRO in the conduct of investment business and the regulations referred to are the Personal Equity Plan Regulations (1989).

Each Henderson PEP ("the Plan") comprises a discretionary management agreement between the Plan Manager, as agent for the investor, and the investor, who is the Plan Manager in writing at the address set out in the application form or such other address as may be notified and the Plan Manager will acknowledge such instructions in writing sent to the investor's address as notified by him. The Plan Manager shall comply with the investor's written instructions within a reasonable time, except where it believes that such compliance may be apprehensible or might cause a contravention of any law, rule or regulation.

The Plan Manager has opened a client account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("the Bankers") with the title "Henderson Financial Management Limited PEP's Client Account" ("the Client Account"). Money held by the Plan Manager on behalf of the investor will be credited to the Client Account or to such other client account or accounts as the Plan Manager may establish from time to time in accordance with Chapter VI of the Financial Services (Clients Money) Regulations 1987. As investor's money will be held in client accounts together with money belonging to other clients, the Client Account will be credited or debited with all sums arising from changes in investments, will be credited with net interest, dividends and tax credits received or collected by the Plan Manager in respect of the Plan and may be debited with all fees, commissions and charges.

All securities or documents of title relating to the Plan must be held and registered in the name of Henderson Nominees Limited, account "PEP Clients" with the investor retaining beneficial ownership. Certificates will be held by the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager shall not be entitled to lend to a third party any investment or other property belonging to the investor, nor shall it be entitled to borrow on the investor's behalf or otherwise against such investment or other property, or generally, nor shall it have power to commit him to a contract the performance of which may require him to supplement the assets under management. The Plan Manager shall not be entitled to commit the investor to any underwriting obligations.

The Plan Manager shall attend to the settlement of all transactions undertaken pursuant to its appointment and may use such settlement and other systems as the Plan Manager may select on the terms of business of the operators of such systems. The Plan Manager's obligation to settle transactions is conditional upon it holding or receiving all necessary documents or funds (in the case may be). Delivery or payment of the securities or documents of title shall however be at the investor's entire risk and the Plan Manager's obligation to deliver securities to the investor or to account to him for the proceeds of sale of securities shall be conditional upon receipt by the Plan Manager of the relevant documents or sale proceeds (in the case may be) from the other party to the transaction.

The Plan Manager may operate a settlement system whereunder the Client Account is debited with the purchase cost or credit with the proceeds of sale on the usual settlement days conditional upon the investor's order to the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager shall not be liable for any loss or damage to the Plan Manager where the Plan Manager makes or receives payment to or from the broker or agent at other times. The Plan Manager reserves the right at any time, however, to debit the Client Account with any amounts to be paid to the Plan Manager if there are any delays or difficulties arising in settling with the broker or agent concerned.

Dividends, income distributions and net interest on bank deposits will be retained within the Plan on behalf of the investor and credited to the Client Account and may be reinvested by the Plan Manager within the limits laid down by the Regulations. The Plan Manager will supply the investor with a statement, if any transactions have taken place, on a quarterly basis. A valuation of investments and cash will be produced on a half-yearly basis, together with an investment report. The Plan Manager will not provide any measure of the performance of the Plan.

The charges payable to the Plan Manager will comprise (i) an annual management charge equal to 3% (plus VAT) which will be payable at the end of the subscription

and may be deducted from the amount of the subscription (ii) a management charge payable half-yearly in arrears of 1.5% p.a. (plus VAT) on the value of the Plan, which amount may be deducted from the assets included in the Plan; (iii) a charge of 0.25% on all purchases and sales of shares effected for the Plan other than purchases and sales of units in Henderson unit trusts (iv) a withdrawal charge of £10 (plus VAT), which will be deducted from the assets of the Plan, for each withdrawal from the Plan; (v) a charge of 1% on all sales and purchases of shares where charges to investment objectives are made; and (vi) a charge of £10 (plus VAT) each time (a) reports and accounts of a company are forwarded; (b) other company information is forwarded; (c) a letter of authority to attend and vote at a general meeting is issued; (d) a form of proxy is lodged; these charges may be deducted from the assets of the Plan. Commissions may also be payable to stockbrokers or other agents through whom purchases and sales are made by the Plan Manager and such commissions will be deducted from the assets of the Plan together with all other purchase, sale and dealing costs.

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The Plan Manager reserves the right to change the amount, rate or basis of charges under a Plan but three months' prior written notice of any such change will be given to the investor. The appointment of the Plan Manager may be terminated at any time by either party giving written notice to the other to that effect, such termination to be effective in the case of notice to the Plan Manager, only upon actual receipt of such notice. The Plan Manager will on such termination and if requested by the investor transfer the Plan to another plan manager.

Termination in accordance with this paragraph shall be without prejudice to the settlement of any outstanding fees and the completion of any transactions already initiated. On termination, the Plan Manager will promptly account to the investor for all securities and cash held and direct the Bankers to do so, save that it shall be entitled to retain such securities and cash as may be required to settle transactions already initiated. The investor shall pay to the Plan Manager its fees up to the date of termination.

While the Plan Manager will use all reasonable care and skill in managing the Plan it will not be liable to the investor save in respect of any negligence, willful default or fraud committed by it, any Related Company to which it has delegated any of its functions, any of its employees or the employees of any such Related Company or its nominee company or breach of these terms and conditions. The Plan Manager will not be liable in relation to any default or fraud by the Bankers or by any other person, firm or company through or with whom transactions are effected on the investor's behalf.

The investor authorises the Plan Manager to disclose to the Inland Revenue all such information as required by law. The investor undertakes to indemnify the Plan Manager against all costs, expenses, demands and losses which the Plan Manager may incur in the lawful and proper exercise of its duties as Plan Manager.

In the course of the management of the Plan the Plan Manager may effect or arrange for the investor transactions through or with any person, firm or company that it may select but the Plan Manager shall not deal as principal in any transaction with the investor nor shall it deal as agent for the investor with any Related Company save in the case of the acquisition or disposal of Henderson unit trusts. Transactions will not however be effected with any securities market outside the United Kingdom. In particular but subject thereto, the Plan Manager may effect or arrange, without specific reference to or authority from the investor, any transaction in which:

(a) the Plan Manager or a Related Company or any Associate have a material interest in the transaction or the circumstances are such that a conflict of interest arises; (b) the relevant securities are securities in which the Plan Manager or a Related Company or an Associate have underwritten an issue within a period of twelve months before the date of the transaction;

(c) the Plan Manager is acting as agent for the investor and also as an agent for the investor or as an Associate; (d) the Plan Manager is acting collectively as agent for the investor and for another customer or customers or for a Related Company or an Associate; (e) the prices of relevant securities may be being stabilised.

Investors should note that if pursuant to (d) above, the Plan Manager aggregates an order for the account of an investor with orders for the account of other clients, a more or less favourable price might be obtained than if the order had been executed separately. The Plan Manager may effect transactions for the investor with or through the agency of a person who provides services under any arrangement falling within IMRO Rule 6.01 of Chapter IV but such transactions will be effected in accordance with the IMRO Rule of Best Execution disregarding any benefit which might arise

directly or indirectly to the investor from the services or benefits provided under any such arrangement. Material interests or conflicts of duty may arise in the circumstances described in paragraph (b), (c) or (d) above or because:

(a) the Plan Manager or a Related Company provide discretionary portfolio management or investment advisory services to another client or clients with interests in the relevant investments;

(b) a director, officer or employee of the Plan Manager or a Related Company is a director of or otherwise interested in any company whose securities are dealt in on behalf of the investor;

(c) the transaction may be in securities where the issuer is an Associate; (d) the transaction relates to a Henderson unit trust.

The Plan Manager and each Related Company and any Associate shall be entitled to retain for its own account, and there shall be no liability to account to an investor for or disclose to an investor, any benefits accruing where the Plan Manager or any such person has a material or other interest in a transaction effected or arranged for an investor.

The Plan Manager will ensure that if the investor so elects, the investor shall receive the annual report and accounts issued by every company or unit trust which focus part of the Plan when such reports are published. If the investor so elects, the Plan Manager will manage for the investor to ensure the normal shareholder or unitholder rights in respect of attending shareholder or unitholder meetings and receiving other information issued to the shareholders or unitholders. A charge will be levied for this service.

The Plan Manager shall notify the investor if, by reason of any failure to satisfy any provision in the Inland Revenue regulations, the Plan has or will become void for tax purposes. The Plan Manager may delegate any of its functions, powers, discretions, privileges and duties under the terms of its appointment to the Related Company and may provide information about the investor and the Plan to any such Related Company but the liability of the Plan Manager for all matters so delegated shall not be affected thereby. The Plan Manager may also employ other agents to perform, or advise in relation to the performance of, any of the services required to be performed or provided by it under the terms of this Agreement.

The Plan Manager shall be entitled at its discretion to disclose any information known to it relating to the investor's business or affairs to the Securities and Investment Board or to IMRO on the terms that the information so disclosed shall not without its consent be further disclosed otherwise than is permitted in respect of Restricted Information under the provision of Part VIII of the Financial Services Act, 1986.

In the event of any failure, interruption or delay in performance of its obligations resulting from breakdown, failure or malfunction of any telecommunications or computer services or system or from any other event or circumstance whatsoever not reasonably within its control, the Plan Manager shall not be liable or have any responsibility of any kind for any loss or damage thereby incurred or suffered by the investor.

Complaints of significance about the services of the Plan Manager should be made to the Complaints Officer for Henderson PEPs. The Complaints Officer of the Plan Manager is the person who is responsible for dealing with such complaints. Complaints must be brought by the relevant Complaints Officer to the attention of the Complaints Manager immediately who will then advise IMRO accordingly; and that in responding to the investor's complaint, the investor must be advised that he has the right to complain directly to a referee appointed by IMRO. The investor also has a direct right of complaint to IMRO, a statement as to the compensation rights of an investor in the event of the Plan Manager being unable to meet any liabilities to an investor is available from the Plan Manager at the address shown in this brochure.

In these terms and conditions the phrase "IMRO Rules" means IMRO's Code of Business Rules and the phrase "Henderson unit trusts" means any authorised unit trust which is managed by Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited or a Related Company. Words and phrases used herein with initial capitals are as defined in the IMRO Rules and shall bear the same meanings as for the purposes of the IMRO Rules.

These terms and conditions represent the entire terms on which the Plan is provided and no alteration or addition will have effect unless agreed between the Plan Manager and the investor in writing. No person has been authorised to give any representation on behalf of the Plan Manager as regards the Plan other than those set out in this brochure and these terms and conditions, and any such representation given must not be relied upon.

These terms and conditions are governed by and are construed in accordance with English law and the parties hereto submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts in respect of any dispute hereunder.

## HOW DO I PROCEED?

- You will find below:
- an application form for completion and return
  - a withdrawal form should you decide to cancel your PEP
  - explanatory notes to help you complete the application form

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

- 1 Please complete the application form with your full names and address (please note that PEPs cannot be held jointly).
- 2 The telephone number will only be used for administrative enquiries.
- 3 Your national insurance number is a government requirement and we cannot process your application without it. You should be able to find this on your pay slip or your medical card.
- 4 Please fill in your date of birth.
- 5 Please fill in your tax district and reference.
- 6 If you wish to receive reports and accounts for the companies in which you are invested or to attend meetings please complete this section. Please note there will be a charge of £10 + VAT each and every time you use one of these facilities.
- 7 Please insert the fiscal year your plan is to commence, ie 1989/90 up to 5th April.

A new plan may be taken out each year. To save you resupplying, this application will relate to the current year and succeeding fiscal years when subscriptions will ordinarily be payable on 15th April. If you wish to continue subscriptions for an unlimited number of years leave the box blank otherwise indicate how many years you wish your PEP contributions to continue.

- 8 To obtain a maximum benefit of the amount which can be invested you can add the initial PEP charges (+ VAT) to the investment, for example:

Minimum/maximum amounts	Amount of investment	+ Charges	Total amount payable
Monthly Savings Plan	£100	£5.75	£105.75
	£400	£23.00	£423.00
Lump Sum Plan	£2,000	£115.00	£2,115.00
	£4,800	£276.00	£5,076.00

- 9 Please indicate your preferred method of payment. Cheques should be made payable to Henderson Financial Management PEP's Client Account.
- 10 Please read the declaration and sign the completed application form and return it to PEP's Department, Henderson Financial Management Limited, 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.

## NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

To be returned only if you wish to withdraw your offer to enter into a Henderson European PEP.

To: PEP's Department  
Henderson Financial Management Limited  
3 Finsbury Avenue  
London EC2M 2PA

I hereby give notice that I have decided not to proceed with the Henderson European Personal Equity Plan. I require the return of any money paid to you or your agent in connection with it.

Name   
Address   
Signature  Date

## HELPLINE

Should you need any further assistance with the completion of your application form, please telephone our Helpline on

01 826 4268

## APPLICATION FORM

This application form is an invitation to enter into a Henderson European Personal Equity Plan. An offer by an investor to enter into such a Plan may, if the withdrawal form below is returned to Henderson Financial Management Limited, be withdrawn within seven days of receipt of the offer by Henderson Financial Management Limited.

1. Full name  
Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss)  Foramenes in full  Surname   
Permanent address   
2. Tel. No. Home  Work   
3. National insurance number   
4. Date of birth   
5. Tax district and reference (if known)   
6. Report & accounts ☐ I wish to receive annual report and accounts and/or other company information.  
Attendance at meetings ☐ I require a letter of authority to attend and vote at meetings at each and every general meeting. I will give you 72 hours notice of any intention to attend.  
7. Fiscal year plan to commence  19   
To continue annually for  years or monthly for  months.  
8. Total amount payable  £   
9. Method of payment: Cheque ☐ Direct debit ☐  
10. Please read and sign the declaration below.  
For office use only  
Manager  Client No  Plan Type

## DECLARATION

I wish to subscribe to a Henderson European Personal Equity Plan under the Personal Equity Plan Regulations (1989).

I certify that I am aged 18 or over, and that, for the Plan year(s) specified, I am resident and ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes, or non resident but performing duties which are treated by virtue of ICTA 1988 Section 132(4)(a) as performed in the UK.

I further declare that I have not subscribed to, and will not apply for, any other Personal Equity Plan for the same year(s) that I subscribe to this plan.

I authorise Henderson to hold all cash subscriptions, Plan investments, dividends, interest and any other rights or proceeds in respect of these investments and any other cash and to make any claims to relief from tax in respect of Plan investments on my behalf.

I authorise that on my written request Henderson will transfer or pay to me, as the case may be, Plan investments, interest, dividends, rights or other proceeds in respect of such investments or any other cash.

I undertake to notify the Plan Manager promptly of any changes to these particulars.

I acknowledge that the terms and conditions of the Henderson European Personal Equity Plan shall apply to this Plan.

I hereby authorise Henderson as Plan Manager to manage my Personal Equity Plan on a discretionary basis.

Signature  Date

Authorised person's name

SRO Number

**HENDERSON**  
THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

01 826 4268

## FAMILY MONEY

## Discount disadvantage

Barbara Ellis finds

some club cards that  
are supposed to cut  
travel bills could  
actually cost more

Travel clubs offering 20 per cent discounts on car hire can sometimes give unwary members an opportunity to pay more than the public, a reader discovered recently.

In New York, an Avis office quoted him \$292 for several days rental of a car, but when he produced a card from the International Airline Passengers Association and asked for the discount, the quote rose to \$306.

The Avis clerk explained this was because the IAPA 15 per cent discount was allowed against a base rate of \$360 — the \$292 rate was already discounted.

Back home in England, the reader found that his discount card could secure an even bigger surcharge.

Hertz in Bristol quoted £262.50 for a week's rental of a class "F" automatic. But it quoted £568.40 for the same rental, allowing a 20 per cent discount from £710.50, the rate applicable for IAPA.



Paying more with a travel club card? Hertz will automatically give a driver the lower rate

"I am sure there are literally dozens of groups advertising memberships with the promise that cardholders will be able to obtain car hire more cheaply than a non-member," he said.

He lodged a formal complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority three months ago and is still waiting for the results of its investigation.

"This is what I call the typical retail problem," said Mr Dennis Hannon of IAPA, who recalled that the organiza-

tion had replied to the ASA explaining that its services are aimed at business travellers rather than tourists.

IAPA's mailings to prospective members mention savings of "up to 20 per cent" from leading rental companies.

On joining, members receive a handbook explaining that each rental company offers savings of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent, based either on time and mileage rates, on published rates with mileage included or on non-

notice and not in even periods of weeks as tourists do.

He added that with 150,000 members, IAPA tries to send mailshots only to business people, but offers any dissatisfied members their money back.

"We had a load of nuns join once, but it wasn't really for them," he said.

A Wexams Travel Club spokesman said the car rental discounts it advertises are based on time and mileage. Thus a discounted rate might be more expensive than a weekly or other special rate available also to non-members.

However, Mr Tim Harford, director of product quality and customer relations at Hertz, says there is no danger of club members being charged more than non-members.

He said that any club member who asks for a discount when a non-discounted tariff costs less will automatically be given the lower rate.

"Confusion arises because the member then thinks they have not had the discount," said Mr Harford.

"True the discount is not always valuable in all circumstances but the customer is still enjoying preferential treatment."

## PERSONAL PENSIONS

## How to get a high performing plan with no hidden traps.

Some pension companies penalize you if you retire earlier than you originally intended; some, if you don't want to commit yourself to paying identical contributions every year.

With The Equitable Life's with-profits plans you'll encounter no such traps.

Retire early, for instance, and we'll pay you the full value of your fund accumulated to date. Whatever your special requirements are, you need not sacrifice superlative performance for flexibility.

Arranging your own pension? If you're a partner, self-employed or simply not in a company pension scheme, The Equitable's results might surprise you. The latest Planned Savings survey (July 1989) of regular

contribution with-profits plans shows that if you'd chosen our 20 year plan and had retired aged 65 on 1st April 1989 your fund would have been worth over 48% more than it would have been with the worst performer.

Over the last 15 years this magazine has compiled 29 tables surveying 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with-profits plans.

The Equitable has been top in fourteen and second in seven more. No other company has even approached this remarkable record.

However, past performance is not a guarantee of future performance.

Call Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or return this coupon if you would like further information by post and by telephone.

MEMBER OF LAUTRO

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WILTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BEDS HP21 2NR. (A welcome further details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed / I am an employee not in a company pension scheme / I

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)

ADDRESS

Postcode

Date of Birth

## The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

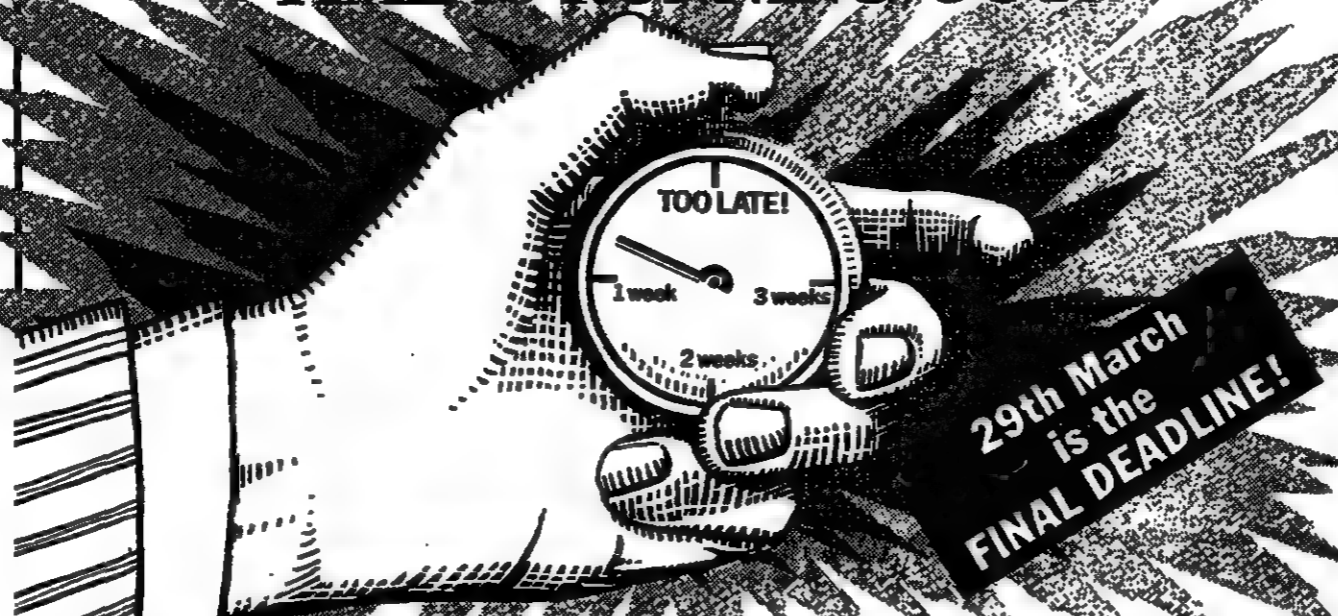
## TAXHAVEN

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- (1) "The Investor" means the individual who is named in the Application Form as the applicant.
- (2) "The Plan" means the Personal Equity Plan (PEP) as provided by MIM Britannia.
- (3) "The Plan Manager" means MIM Britannia, which is a member of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) and is authorised to act as the Plan Manager for the Plan.
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Surname:		Surname:	
Address:		Address:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
National Insurance No.:		National Insurance No.:	
State Pension No.:		State Pension No.:	
Tax District:		Tax District:	

INVESTMENT DETAILS	
I would like to invest £	I would like to invest £
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Use enclose my/our cheque for the above sum, made payable to MIM Limited.	

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I/we apply for a TAXHAVEN Personal Equity Plan for the current fiscal year. I/we confirm that I/we have read and understood the current brochure and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions.

I/we declare that I/we are aged 18 or over, and I/we are resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom (UK) for tax purposes or non-resident but performing duties which by virtue of section 132(4)(a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are treated as being performed in the UK, and that I/we have made no other application to subscribe to another Personal Equity Plan for the tax year to which this application relates.

I/we authorise MIM Limited to hold my/our cash subscription, plan investments, interest, dividends and any other rights or proceeds in respect of these investments, and any other cash and to make on my/our behalf any claims for relief from tax in respect of my/our plan investments to the Inland Revenue. I/we authorise MIM

Limited as Plan Manager on my/our written request to terminate my/our plan(s), transfer or pay to my/our, or another plan manager, as the case may be, the proceeds in respect of my/our plan(s).

I/we declare that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and that I/we will inform MIM Limited without delay of any change in my/our circumstances affecting any of the information given on the form.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BRIEFINGS

The arrival of independent taxation has led British Gas to issue a new share transfer form that may help its shareholders to save money. From April 6, husbands and wives will be taxed separately, and transferring assets such as shares to the lower earner could cut the tax bill. British Gas has printed a simple transfer form to help any investors who wish to do so. Telephone 01-834 2000.

James Capel rounds off its range of index funds next week with the launch of a fund investing in Britain. The UK Index Fund joins the American, European, Japan and Tiger funds in providing a stable core for investment portfolios. Since their launch in 1988, the funds have attracted £100 million from more than 4,000 investors. The latest fund will be launched on Monday and have an initial offer period of five days. The minimum investment is £1,000.

Yorkshire Bank has published a full list of charges for current account customers. A banker's draft and special cheque clearance each cost £7.50, while duplicate statements cost £2 a time. If a cheque, direct debit or standing order is returned unpaid, the charge will be £12.50. Storing a small parcel or deed box in safe custody costs £10, plus VAT. Larger packages cost £15.

Going abroad may not cost as much this year for anyone with an account at Girobank. A new credit card holiday discount scheme, Girobank Travel Connection, gives a £1 discount for every £15 of the total booking value, including

insurance, car hire and surcharges.

Mercury Asset Management has launched a cash trust with an initial gross yield of 15.1 per cent. The Mercury Cash Trust is intended to pay a high income on investments of £1,000 or more. The annual management fee is 0.5 per cent, and there are no front-end charges or bid/offer spread. Cash trusts are useful for non-taxpayers who prefer to have income paid gross.

The quality of service from life and pensions companies is getting better, but has a long way to go, according to a new survey. The top 10 companies in terms of service include M&G, Clerical Medical, and Prolife. Comments about the worst offenders ranged from "poor" to "abysmal". The survey was carried out by the Alexander Consulting Group.

Henderson Financial Management has teamed up with an independent intermediary to launch a personal equity plan to invest exclusively in the shares of Lomax. The Lomax Pep, developed in conjunction with FE Wright, has an initial charge of 1.75 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.25 per cent. Withdrawals can be made, subject to a £10 fee. Telephone 01-638 5757.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Janet Walford says new rules will make it easier to compare life policies

## Charging rates revealed

Sweeping changes in the way life companies illustrate the effect of charges on investment performance will come into effect from July 1. The new method, which will show the effect of charges as a reduction in the percentage yield, should make it much easier for the layman to compare the cost of one plan against another.

Life policies with a savings element, such as "unit linked" or "with profits" plans, often contain notoriously complex charges. Many unit-linked plans, for example, contain "capital" or "initial" units. These bear an additional charge of 3.5 per cent to 7 per cent a year on the first one or two years' premiums and many people mistakenly believe that this extra charge stops after that. In fact this extra charge applies to the growth of the units throughout the duration of the policy and can have a serious effect on early surrender values.

The final payout on a life policy is affected by two main factors: the growth achieved by the underlying investments and the charges levied by the life company. The growth is by far the most important of the two; an excellent fund performance will easily compensate for the charges. However, if the charges are high, and the fund performance poor, the consumer will end up with a raw deal.

Everyone considering a life



policy will, from 1 July, be given a set of product particulars before he or she decides to buy. The product particulars will be sent to him or her by the life company (or friendly society) and will contain the new basis of comparing charges.

Illustrations expressed in monetary amounts are banned unless the life office calculates them on a standard basis. This basis is that life policy investments will grow at 7 per cent and 10 per cent a year throughout the term of the policy. The life office then

applies standard charges to the calculation (regardless of what it really charges) which means that all such illustrations will come out about the same.

In order to make comparisons meaningful, the life offices will show the effect of their individual charging structure expressed as a reduction in the percentage yield.

A life policy quoting a reduction in yield of 1.5 per cent a year, for example, means that the underlying investments will grow at 5.5 per cent a year instead of 7 per cent. The charges allowed for

in the calculation will not include the cost of any life insurance cover because this is part of the benefits of the policy.

Despite the simplicity of the new regime, however, it will be up to consumers and their advisers to make comparisons between the life companies to ensure a fair deal.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro), which requires the change will not publish league tables on charges. Instead, it will be relying on the press to make sure that consumers are kept informed.

It is essential to make these comparisons since some life companies have much higher charges than others. If you are in any doubt, you should consult an independent financial adviser who will make the comparisons for you and advise you on the best plan to meet your requirements.

It is also important to remember that many life policies contain much larger levels of life assurance for the same premium, but correspondingly lower levels of investment.

Taking the 10-year term, if there were no charges whatsoever, a £30 per month premium would, at 7 per cent a year grow to a projected maturity value of £5,161. The lowest charging company, London Life, would deduct 1.23 per cent a year in charges;

the average charging policy would deduct 3.2 per cent a year and the highest charging company, Reliance Mutual, would deduct 5.2 per cent a year.

Both these plans contain a guaranteed minimum level of life cover of £2,700 throughout the 10 years which is included in the reduction in yield figures.

Over the 25-year term, if there were no charges, the £30 per month would grow to £23,624. The lowest charging policy, again that of London Life, would deduct 0.78 per cent a year in charges, and the average policy 1.7 per cent a year. The highest charging plan, that of Eagle Star, would deduct 2.98 per cent a year in charges.

However, the Eagle Star plan carries a huge amount of guaranteed life cover throughout the term of £22,311. This compares to just £2,700 of guaranteed life cover under the London Life plan. Because the guarantees are so low, London Life can keep its charges down to the minimum.

It is up to the individual, therefore, to decide what element of cover and what element of savings he wants to pay for in his premiums. Obviously the cost of life cover increases the charges under the plan.

The author is editor of Money Management

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## LETTERS

## Sea-shell from far-off shore

From Mrs Norah Kite  
Sir, I have in my possession a fossilized sea-shell. It was picked up by my late husband in the Australian desert surrounding Maralinga.

He was there as an army observer of the atom bomb trials.

As it must be many millions of years since there was any marine life in the Australian desert, I feel that this object must be of some monetary value.

If it is, perhaps you could let

me know how best to dispose of it please.

Yours truly,  
Mrs Norah Kite,  
59 High Street,  
Trumpington,  
Cambridge.

I think that your first step must be to try to get some idea as to whether the fossil does have any appreciable value.

May I suggest that you first approach a museum and see one of their resident experts: as you live near Cam-

bridge the Fitzwilliam may be able to help you. If they do not have an expert in this field they should be able to refer you to some other museum.

If the fossil does have some value, then the expert may well be able to advise you as to the best way of disposing of it so as to realize that value.

I should perhaps add that if it is disposed of for less than £6,000, the disposal should come within the so-called "charities" exemption so as not to be liable to capital gains tax.

## Leasing arrangements

From Mrs B R Walsh  
Sir, His Honour B Clapham (Business Letters, February 10) must know that a signed authority to inspect the land register has first to be obtained from the freeholder. A prospective tenant would, I feel, considerably lessen his

chances of being granted a lease should he make such a request. Perhaps permission to inspect title should be made an obligatory part of all leasing arrangements as it is with purchase of property. Yours faithfully,  
MRS B R WALSH.

## Procedure for the redemption of gilts

From Mr S.A. Jordan  
Sir, On December 29 1975, I purchased £2,500 worth of 9 per cent Treasury Stock 1994 via Midland Bank and Paul E Schweder, Millen & Co.

The share certificate is in my possession and the Bank of England send me an interest cheque each May 17 and November 17. Could you inform me when my investment is due to be refunded?

At that time could I send the share certificate to the appropriate Treasury Department and get my money back without having to deal with

the Midland Bank?  
Yours faithfully,  
S.A. JORDAN,  
21 Willow Drive,  
Polegate, East Sussex.

As it appears you are the registered holder of the stock, the Bank of England should, some months before the stock is due for redemption (November 17, 1994), send you the appropriate form for completion.

This will enable you to give instructions as to how the money is to be paid. You will need to return the form and stock certificate to the Bank.

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It should be remembered that the value of units, and the income from them, may fluctuate and is not guaranteed.

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T 21/89

# Why the Tokyo bubble had to burst

For once the Japanese stock market is suffering from a crisis of its own making. Joe Joseph reports

In Japan, they still cannot quite decide which is more breathtaking: the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe or the collapse of the stock market in Tokyo.

Six months ago the odds may have been longer on the dramatic fall of Tokyo's Nikkei index than on the dramatic fall of Romania's Ceausescu. Six months ago, Tokyo was the world's biggest market. This week it again fell into second place behind New York.

In America's shadow, is where many economists feel Japan probably deserves to be. America has headaches with its budgetary book-keeping, but it is rich in a way Japan can only be on paper.

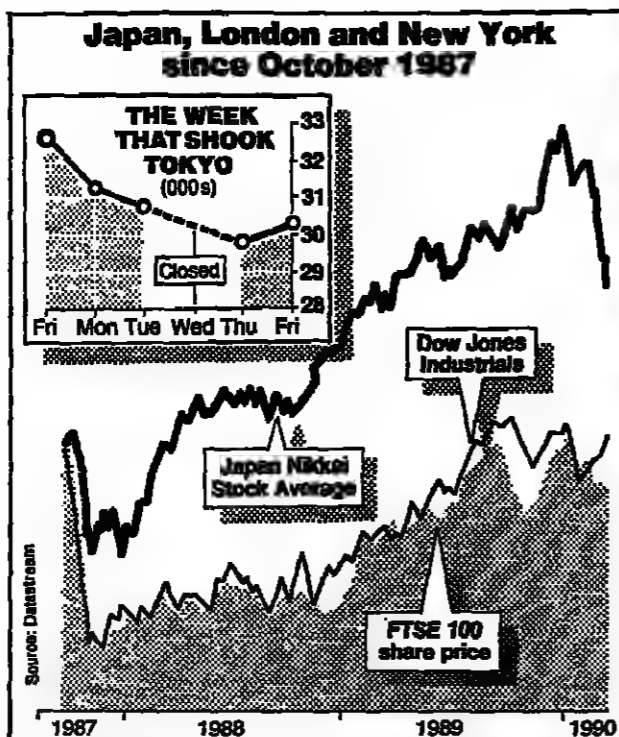
A favourite Japanese pastime is to calculate how much of America could be purchased from the sale of the grounds of Tokyo's Imperial Palace: all of California. But Tokyo's share fall has highlighted the fragility of the arithmetic.

Zooming Japanese land prices have fed the boom in share-buying. Higher share prices then created enough profits for more land speculation. Money was cheap; so was oil. Inflation was low and the economy was booming.

Now almost everything, except land prices, has gone into reverse and it seems the Emperor never really had any clothes. If the land bubble bursts, instead of slowly deflating, the bang could pop eardrums from London to New York.

For an idea of just how bad things have become, the loss in the value of Tokyo's shares since the market hit its dizzy New Year's Eve peak is larger than the value of all the shares on the London stock market.

Tokyo has lost more than a quarter of its worth in less than a quarter of a year, its worst drubbing since the oil crisis. But during the oil crisis share prices shrivelled slowly, falling 37 per cent between 1973 and 1974. During the 1987 world market crash, the



Nikkei fell by what now looks like a modest 21 per cent.

The yen, once the strongest currency one could wish for, is falling faster than a thermometer in a snowdrift. It is at its lowest level for three years and heading lower.

It is all unpleasantly novel for a country which has come to think of itself, in economic terms at least, as top banana; where the stock market has risen for 12 successive years, pushing up share prices eightfold; where the word "sell" was never heard from Tokyo share dealers.

Many people who thought the stock market was the safest place for their twice-yearly salary bonuses are shocked to find that even Japanese share prices shiver occasionally. One in five Japanese owns shares. Lunchtimes once spent in noodle shops are now spent peering at the windows of share shops, where the green lights next to almost every share quote tell them their shares are wilting by the hour.

They are chewing their nails but they know share prices have been climbing spectacularly for more than a decade and they remember how the market bounced back after October 1987. They know they would have been silly to sell in the gloom of 1987, however anguished they felt.

What they do not know is whether this time the rules have changed and whether the

smart money is now being kept in folded banknotes — preferably foreign ones — under the futon.

Some feel they have been tricked by bullish brokers' predictions that the Nikkei would soar from nearly 39,000 at the end of last year to 45,000, maybe even 50,000, soon. Some are browsing in bookshops for advice. *The Sun Also Sets*, by Mr Bill Emmott, a journalist and former Tokyo correspondent for *The Economist*, has become a fast seller in the search for explanations for Japan's incalculable fall below the economic horizon.

"If I'd have known that stock prices could fall so drastically," said an office worker, with the innocence that marks the amateur investor, "I would have sold them earlier."

Mr Shinichi Nemoto, editor of *Investment Advice*, a magazine tailored to the armchair punter, has been plagued with telephone callers asking when a special issue will be published predicting the stock market's future.

"The sky-rocketing prices at the end of last year were abnormal," he says. "I've been warning since then that anything can happen to the market, but investors generally tend to be bullish. This is an opportunity to re-learn about the tricky side of stocks, but it's been rather an expensive lesson."



Schadenfreude in share trading: Tokyo dealers feel the strain as the stock market and yen continued to tumble yesterday

The turning point for small investors was not some of the biggest falls in years, or the fact that Tokyo is no longer the biggest stock market. It was the backlash of Japan's version of popular capitalism.

When the share price of the privatized Nippon Telegraph and Telephone — Japan's British Telecom and the world's biggest company — sank below its 1987 offering

## People got too complacent about the Japan Inc myth... the idea that there was this Big Daddy who would make sure the market would always go up

price this week, there were cries of protest across the country. It topped the evening news bulletins. The telephones in NTT's headquarters have not stopped ringing.

"I feel as if I were swindled by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan," said one NTT investor, who presumably had assumed share dealing was a one-way bet. "I wish the government would buy back these stocks at the price I paid."

The ancien régime, which

still remembers the bubble that was Tokyo after the war, is taking things more stoically and sees a message here for Japan's *nouveau riches*. They are saying "people got too arrogant, people got too greedy."

Mr Toshikatsu Fukuma, financial director of Mitsui Corporation, the trading group, said: "This was a signal for the Japanese to return to being diligent Japanese."

Although the immediate effect is on people's pockets, perhaps the biggest casualty is the perception that the cabal of businessmen and bureaucrats who control Japan would ensure a safety net was placed under the Nikkei whenever it looked wobbly. It seemed to work in October 1987. It is not working now, despite hurried arrangements to make margin trading easier, to limit computerized program selling, to halt new share issues for a while, and to support the yen.

"People got too complacent

about the Japan Inc myth," says Mr Peter Tasker, who runs Kleinwort Benson's research department in Tokyo.

"The idea that there was this Big Daddy who would make sure that the market would always go up, that there was a safety net, who would always see that you were all right, that has been comprehensively disproved."

"Since 1985 the market has risen with the help of low interest rates and an easy money policy. But the authorities can't magic the market up when things go into reverse."

But in Japan, "administrative guidance" — orders from top civil servants — is a way of life and some people still believe the government can defy the laws of economics.

"Personally," said one Tokyo businessman as the market was on another rollercoaster ride, "I wish Finance Ministry officials would instruct the brokerages to buy up a lot of shares."

Share traders have given up listening to the Canute-like predictions from Finance Ministry and central bank officials predicting that the stock market rout is over, that the yen is too cheap and will

certainly rally any day now, and that there will be honey again for tea in a day or two.

The weak yen that has been troubling Tokyo central bankers, who fear it will boost import prices and fuel inflation, does not appear to worry many of Japan's industrial allies. America seems very happy with the dollar's muscularity. West Germany wants a strong mark, too. The yen is being forced to take the strain.

Many analysts see the daily warnings given by Mr Yasushi Mieno, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, that currency speculators will have their fingers burned, as wishful thinking. A long-delayed, one-point rise in interest rates on Tuesday failed to bolster the yen. It also pulled the rug further from under the stock market, which feels it has enough to worry about without higher borrowing costs for industry.

Investors have lost confidence in Japan's ability to control monetary policy, especially when domestic politics are still unsettled because of rivalry between ruling party bigwigs. The market is unlikely to rally until investors are convinced the next move

in interest rates will be down, not up. So far, that moment appears to be some way away.

If Japan's allies are reluctant to throw out life belts, it is only partly because they have been little affected by Tokyo's troubles. It is also because they are quite enjoying the spectacle of seeing Tokyo get its comeuppance for pushing stock prices up to levels that made a mockery of normal financial calculations. There is *schadenfreude* in share trading, too.

This feeling that Japan is to blame for its present discomfort adds a novel twist. The Tokyo stock market has suffered setbacks in the past, but they have always been attributed to external shocks.

For example, in 1953 the market suffered the "Stalin Shock," slumping 9 per cent on news of the Soviet leader's death. Then there was the "Nixon Shock" at the start of floating exchange rates, the "Oil Shock," which was the Arabs' fault, and Black Monday in 1987, which was the Americans' fault. This time the problem is Made In Japan.

"It is nothing to do with the Americans or the Arabs," says Mr Tasker. "It is driven by Japanese investors' perception of their own assets."

So, what happens next? The yen will stay weak, however much jaw-jaw there is between officials in Tokyo, Washington or Bonn. Cheaper prices of Japan's exports could boost Japan's trade surplus and aggravate Tokyo's already prickly relations with Washington.

A sizzling public spat between the world's two most powerful economies could have unpredictable consequences on financial markets everywhere.

The sickly yen will make another rise in Japanese interest rates almost certain, despite complaints from the Finance Ministry, whose bickering over interest rates has hurt the credibility of Japanese monetary policy.

The Bank of Japan feels that with Japan's economy still puffing away at a growth rate of between 4 and 5 per cent a year, the Japanese can stomach slightly dearer money now, especially if the alternative is sky-high interest rates in a year's time.

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# THE TIMES REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY MARCH 24 1990

## LEGACY of THE BOUNTY

Pitcairn, a rocky scrap of land 3,000 miles from anywhere, is still home to 49 descendants of the Bounty mutineers. But how much longer can they enjoy its peace and beauty?

Michael Brooke reports on the island's bi-centenary



The real (and Hollywood) Pitcairn of *Murphy on the Bounty* fame: tree-lined Bounty Bay and jetty, the island's only landing spot from the dangerous surf, and three generations of the Warren family, pictured against the anchor from the ill-fated *Bounty*

**T**ub and Tin are the only physical links that the dwindling population of Pitcairn Island has with an outside world whose nearest main point of contact is 3,000 miles away. Two sturdy 40ft open boats, bucking out through the Pacific swell to passing ships, are the means by which visitors and supplies reach the little community, descended from Fletcher Christian and the mutineers of Captain Bligh's *Bounty*, who inhabit one of the most beautiful and isolated spots on earth.

A rocky scrap of land two miles by one, set in an infinity of ocean, Pitcairn has no natural harbour. Since Christian's day, a tiny stone jetty has been built in Bounty Bay to create a measure of shelter from the swell. But there is no airstrip, and longboats are still the only means the islanders have of crossing the barrier of surf, just as they were 200 years ago.

The appearance of a ship offshore is the signal for half the population to make for the boats, which hurry out to moor like cockle shells under the high, steel side of the newcomer.

It is not uncommon for a single longboat to go to sea with, quite literally, about half the island's population of 49 on board. A capsize would be a disaster for the whole community. But the crews are expert at handling their apparently fragile vessels in the open sea. Once alongside the ship, the islanders swarm up a rope ladder like pirates, carrying tropical fruit and hand-carved souvenirs to sell to the crew. Four times a year, a ship brings three container-loads of mixed supplies, which are lowered into the boats and steered to shore, the helmsmen waiting for a quiet patch between the ominous swells before shooting in under the shelter of the jetty.

To handle the two longboats on supply days, a minimum of 10 able-bodied crew members are needed. The population includes a full age range from infants to pensioners, and today the number who can lead a useful hand to this essential task is only about 10.

There is a serious spouse problem on Pitcairn. A young adult has literally only two or three marriageable partners from which to choose. If none of them appeals, even with the benefit of tropical

sunshine to catalyse the sexual chemistry, then he or she has no option but to look overseas. It would be too strong to say that the Pitcairners live under a sense of threat, but there is a background anxiety which has been evident for 10 or 20 years. Most people would like life to go on as it has. But that depends on this fragile line of contact through the surf. Each of the island's small number of key people must be aware that their life choices have great importance for the future of the whole community.

Christian and his eight fellow mutineers landed in Pitcairn 200 years ago last January, with 19 Polynesian sweethearts and shipmates. They literally burned their boats by destroying the *Bounty* by fire. By the time they were rediscovered 18 years later, all but one of the mutineers had died as a result of murder, accident or illness. Christian, shot down by a Tahitian, died with the unromantic exclamation: "Oh, dear."

Pitcairn celebrated its bicentennial modestly. Visitors doubled the island's population, bringing it briefly up into triple figures again. The islanders dressed up in 18th century gear and had a party and a cricket match. On the anniversary of the day the *Bounty* was burned, they gathered for a service in the Seventh Day Adventist church.

In no sense is a visit to Pitcairn a return to the days of wind-jammers and salt pork, although the *Bounty* legacy is evident in the islanders' surnames, of which there are four. Within 60 years of their arrival the mutineers and their consorts had multiplied to

194 and overpopulation threatened their existence. In 1856 all the islanders were removed to Norfolk Island, 3,700 miles away, but over the following decade 43 people in six families elected to return. They brought with them the mutineer names Young and Christian, plus Warren, an American sealer who settled on Pitcairn in the early 1800s, and Brown, a sailor shipwrecked at the turn of the century on nearby Oeno.

Pitcairn's population reached a peak of 233 in 1937. This was almost too many for the island and the surrounding seas to support, and the community came near to starvation when supplies became irregular during the Second World War. Since then the lure of the outside world has brought about a slow decline. The island is economically self-sufficient, earning about £400,000 a year through the sale of fishing licences, and postage stamps and coins to collectors. But the community has continued to shrink. Numbers dropped below 100 in the 1960s, and are now close to the viable minimum.

It is easy to understand why most of the population are content with their life, and why they are wary of changes which might by outside standards seem desirable measures to stabilise its population. For Pitcairn has most of the qualifications of the archetypal tropical island. Its russet cliffs rise from the boiling foam of a sea alive with fish. Red-tailed tropic birds and black-winged frigate birds wheel round its 1,100ft summit. Sunshine alternates with plentiful rain. A fertile volcanic

soil readily yields crops ranging from green vegetables to oranges, pineapples, mangoes and coconuts — as well as the breadfruit, a luscious relic of the *Bounty*'s original purpose in sailing into the South Seas. The island's prison has never had an occupant, in the recollection of its one policeman. There are no taxes of any kind.

There is, however, an inescapable conundrum: those steps that might halt the export of youth, and render the island more enticing to people keen to make their way in the world, pose the greatest threat to Pitcairn's most attractive features — its commercial virginity and its community spirit.

During my seven-week stay, I detected that the people would be anxious about a large number of outsiders coming to the island. They realise that united they stand. How well would that unity persist after the advent of an on-shore fish-processing facility? Or a fruit-canning factory with a highly paid manager? Or an airstrip bringing tourists from Tahiti?

**A**ny tourist wishing to visit Pitcairn needs to have both time and determination to spare. Tahiti, the nearest international airport, is 1,200 miles away. Every week or so a cargo ship passes by on the long Great Circle route between New Zealand and the Panama Canal. Some pause for only an hour or so, for time is money, and an hour's delay between ports may cost £1,000 or more.

To get there, I spent eight days aboard a Greek banana boat bound for Ecuador, enduring a surfeit of feta cheese and olive oil. Visitors have to obtain a landing licence from the British Consul-General in Auckland, New Zealand, requiring the bearer to be of good behaviour and free from contagious disease. But the island's elected chief citizen, its magistrate, Brian Young, showed no urgency about inspecting the documentation of a visitor whose arrival had been well-signalled in advance by radio.

Radio is the islanders' main means of communication. The air waves carry orders for spare parts, weather reports, chatter from radio hams and personal messages. Continued overleaf

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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



## Fag memory of a political leapfrog

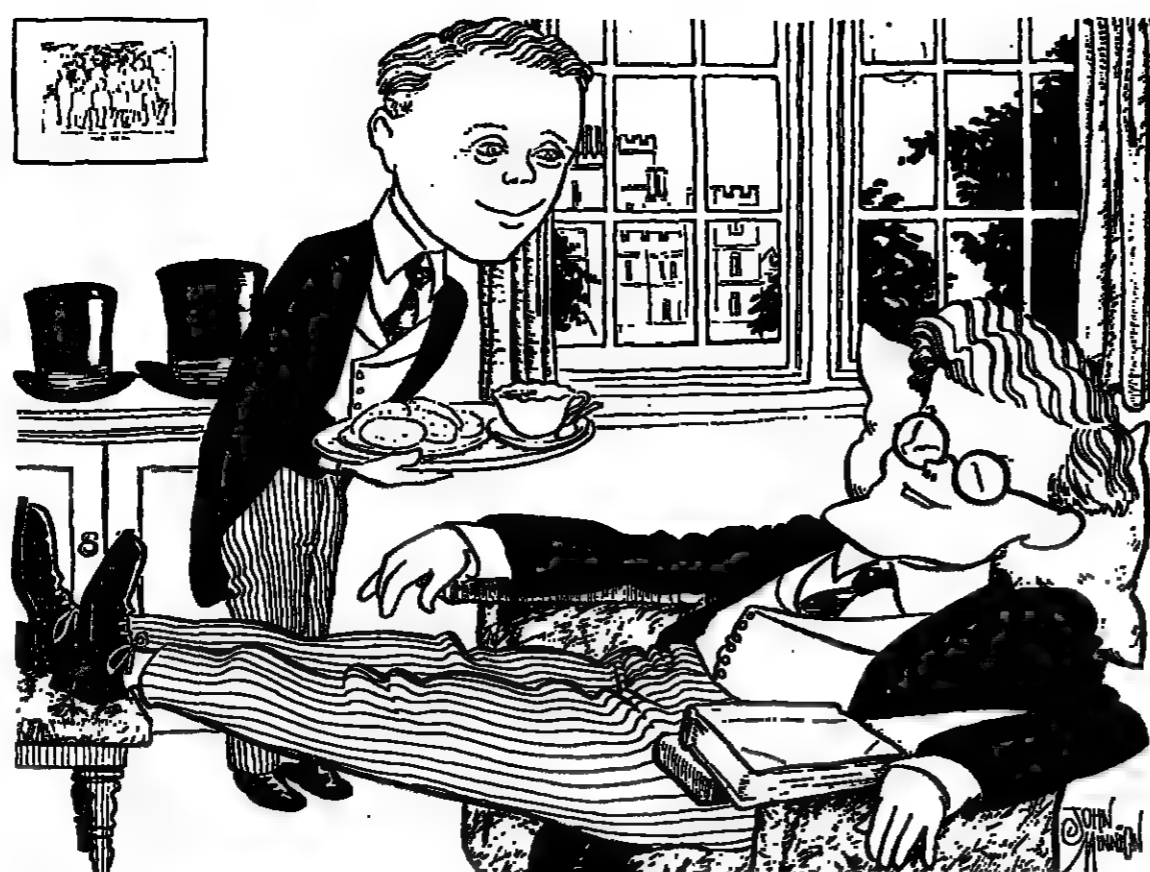
After living it up in Venice it was back to the daily round, the common task of this week (Anne Benson of north London has kindly offered to fix the widowed Solly and Eddie up with any number of Beckies and Sarahs). The daily round included dinner at the television centre. The Marmaduke Hussys hosted a large party for the Douglas Hurd and the Timothy Rentons and fielded a room full of the acceptable faces of BBC presentation: the Sissons, the Naughties, the Simon Bates, the Robin Rays, Nick Ross, Anna Ford and Sue Lawley.

My man in Deal had muttered something about Renton having been Hurd's fag at Eton, although there is a difference of only two years in their age; but I haven't the gall to authenticate this on your behalf or to enquire if it permanently coloured their relationship in Cabinet. I was surprised to find that the Foreign Secretary is a year older than I am. I'd always assumed he was junior to Lawson and Heseltine, who were my contemporaries at Oxford and who leaptfrogged him politically.

I was also surprised — and delighted — to sit next to his daughter-in-law, Kim, who runs a record company with Motorhead, of all groups, as one of her stars. Not many foreign secretaries have the heaviest of heavy metal groups in the family.

Susan Hussey is a Somerset girl. In the Sixties I appeared on my first *Any Questions* with her father, Lord Waldegrave, under the imperious chairmanship of Freddie Grisewood. Alan Melville and Edith Summerskill were also on the panel and, when a question about marriage cropped up, Freddie gazed balefully at our group, snorted and said loudly: "A question about marriage and we've got two bachelors on the panel. How queer!" Edith Summerskill compounded this by bellowing in my ear: "Did he say 'queer'?"

The daily round also included dinner at Bibendum with Sir Michael Horden, Michael Redington and Keith Waterhouse to plot something theatrical for the autumn. Simon Hopkinson suggested



more of his special trips. Its inspiration, he says, is Australian, but I had a toothache and "made do" with scrambled eggs and truffles.

Then there was the first night of *Sunday In The Park With George* at the National. I don't think it's better than the splendid New York production; but I enjoyed it more. For my part I suspect this is simply because I have now seen it twice. It is a dense work and I shall probably enjoy it even more a third time. You can't say that of many musicals.

The common task this week was a daily trip to Waterloo to rehearse a fine company in Geraldine Aron's play *Same Old Moon*. In the next few weeks you may be subjected to rather a lot of hot news from the Test Valley, eked out with profiles of New Forest ponies and attempts to solve the mystery of who killed William Rufus. We open the play at the Nuffield, Southampton, in the first week of April.

Although the author insists her play is not autobiographical, it does contain a warm and funny scene involving a play agent not unlike the legendary Peggy Ramsay, who was once Miss Aron's representative.

This devastatingly honest woman and inspired play reader, now in her eighties, was exhaustively profiled over the week-end along with the Ayckbourns, Bolts, Hares, Ortons, Bonds and Brentons in her stable. This week's visitor, Vaclav Havel, is also an author she serves in this country.

I once followed her around a foyer at Guildford where she was (quite rightly) telling London managers not to think of bringing a revue of ours to town as it was not nearly good enough. Some time afterwards she tried to sack us, but we told her not to be silly.

A penalty you pay for doing an Irish play is that when you tell people they insist on telling you

Irish jokes. What do you think of the Renault Five? Not guilty.

A real one crept up on me this week when I rang Dublin for a piece of background broadcasting information.

I asked for a specific head of department. We shall call him Mr O'X. "Yes," said the switchboard helpfully, "would that be the Mr O'X who died five days ago?"

Another enjoyable bit of common round was rehearsing Cantabile's concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. I gave them a few programme shoves and pushes. Their determination to expand their repertoire is admirable and their topical parody "Don't Worry (Be Green)" has a neat line about that effect. Antarctica, according to Cantabile, is now "the pole with a hole".

I WONDER who else has dropped off the twig. I see that the Duchess of Devonshire (40 years a dear old Duch this year — almost a record for

a duchess not divorced or dowagered this century — and it doesn't seem a day too much) has collected a handsome advance on behalf of the estate for her sister Nancy Mitford's letters.

Some 10 years ago, when Debo last talked to me about it, she said: "We can't publish them yet, they'd come as such a shock to a lot of old dears who thought she was rather fond of them."

I HAVE THE answer to the two left-footed ballet shoes on Diaghilev's Venetian tomb; but first here is how the grave got there. Writing in the *New Yorker* at the time of his death, Janet Flanner, Paris correspondent, wrote: "Diaghilev had only 2,000 lire to his name at the beginning of his last illness and hoped by dying quickly to die within his means; but bills to Venetian chemists and hotel keepers left him a posthumous pauper. It is said he was buried through the generosity of his friend Gabrielle Chanel, the famous and loyal dressmaker."

About the shoes, no one has suggested who put them there but Nadia Nerina rang to tell me that Gore Vidal, as author of *Death in the 5th Position*, should know better. Ballet shoes are made to be worn on either foot and quickly adapt to the dancers' shapes. She thinks the shoes on San Michele must be replaced regularly when they disintegrate — just as someone regularly places flowers on Pavlova's grave in north London. When Nadia took Ulanova to visit it some years ago, the blooms were fresh and neatly arranged.

I doubt the devoted buncher is the dancer who featured in one of Caryl Brahms's favourite stories. A member of Pavlova's company, she was standing in the wings one night when the music for *The Dying Swan* began. Before the great ballerina could make her solo entrance, the English girl made hers. Afterwards she explained that she had an irresistible urge to express herself in the dance and was greatly surprised when Madame sacked her as soon as she came off.

ON NO ACCOUNT miss a massive celebration of musical theatre and one of its great musical directors, the late Ray Cook, tomorrow night at the Shaftesbury. The line-up is stunning. Angela Lansbury makes a rare appearance and the Golden Girl, Beatrice Arthur, her first. If you can miss a special Elisabeth Welch appearance, I can't.

The last time I dictated her name for this column, the patient man who took it down bridled when I pointed out that Miss Welch spells her first name with an "s".

"I know," he said, "I got her autograph at the Shepherd's Bush Empire 40 years ago."

CELIA BRAYFIELD

## If I were...

I have just had the most appalling experience. I am so disturbed I can hardly dictate this. Nevertheless, I must be resolute. I have seen the light and from now on everything will be different. It all began when my wife called me on the car telephone on my way into London from the airport. "We've got 12 people coming to dinner and no potatoes. Could you be a darling and pop into Chiswick? We need two 3lb bags and be sure to get the organic ones."

As the chairman of Britain's most profitable supermarket chain I can, of course, summon 6lb of organic potatoes any time I need them, but that night I decided on an adventure. I wanted to experience one of our stores as a customer. That was how Chiswick High Road became my road to Damascus.

Inside the store was a scene which needed a modern Gustave Doré to portray its overcrowded desperation. Angry people were crushed between the shelves like laboratory rats. The queues were appalling. There were no organic potatoes left and the shelf-filler laughed. There was, he said, no call for them and in any case they sold out early every morning. I took some Chilean grapes instead. I don't know why.

By now I had sustained three vicious blows to my shins from trolleys propelled by people at the limits of self-control. I felt my blood pressure rising and my heart pound. With a hand basket and cash I could join the faster check-out queue, which was also the longest.

The young woman ahead of me, who had a baby wedged into her trolley with packets of Pampers, said maybe the Budget would make a change with workplace nurseries, single parents returning to work



... Lord Sainsbury

and so forth. But who, she asked gloomily, would want to bring up a child in a place like Sainsbury's?

When someone suggested we abandon our baskets and pop down to Cullens I readily agreed. Cullens was, I must admit, a nice little shop, and it took only a few minutes to buy potatoes, even if they were a wicked price and not organic.

I had ample time to reflect on this experience on the way home, because a container lorry which had transported Spanish lemons was stuck in a side street and we were trapped behind it for some time. I closed my eyes and remembered the Sainsbury's of my youth, the marble and mahogany shopfronts, the butter sculptures, that fresh dairy smell and the workers in white uniforms wielding cheese wires and bacon slicers with good cheer.

At night I lay awake reflecting that almost seven million people every week suffer the ordeal I had experienced. I thought of the money we had given to the National Gallery, of the Sainsbury Centre for the visual arts. I started to see a vision of the Sainsbury's of the future, calm and clean, friendly to the user and the environment. Space, design, biodegradable packaging, piped Mozart, maybe videos, possibly even mahogany, marble and the cool fragrance of real cheddar.



William dropped by just as the night was getting serious.

When I  
something

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Grov

Jason Christian W...  
on Christmas Eve...  
trees and in mid...  
free the presents...  
Every body gives every...  
fishing weights

## A CHILDHOOD: KINGSLEY AMIS

'When I was about seven my mother suggested I wrote something, not to become a writer, just to amuse myself'

Some years ago, Kingsley Amis read an interview about his friend Philip Larkin in which Larkin was asked at what age he began writing. "Oh, at puberty, like everyone else," was the reply. "What?" thought Amis, astonished. "He left it until puberty? I'd been writing for years by puberty."

Amis was always writing, his first work being a 99-line blank verse poem about the miracle of Saint Sophia. A little later at 12 came "The Sacred Rhino of Uganda", a 200-word piece for the school magazine which began with dialogue: "We must set out as soon as possible," said Captain Hartley to his son, Mark.

"Not very interesting dialogue. I admit. That came from reading boys' comics which tended to get off the mark in that way then. Nowadays you'd think it was Graham Greene who invented beginning a story with dialogue, but people who'd read *Magnet* and *The Wizard* knew all about that."

He was born in 1922 in Norbury, south London, to a middle-class couple, an only child and over-protected. "My parents wouldn't let me play with other children much. Certainly not out in the street. I think the family had come down in the world, slipped a rung, and I suppose they were frightened of toppling into the working class."

His father worked for Colman's Mustard after his father, Amis's grandfather saw the family glass business somewhat shot from under him by Woolworth's. Neither of his parents was bookish, his mother enjoying "good trash" ... she'd probably have thought Catherine Cookson very good, while his father stuck to detective stories or books about cricket. Of his immediate family, only his mother's father was interested in literature. He had the collected works of all the English poets on his shelves and Amis liked him. Then, "silly as he was the first of them to die. I was about eight. My grandmother said I could have just five books of his library provided I wrote inside that they were from my grandfather's collection. So I chose, what else, Keats, Shelley, Byron."

Altogether Amis's close family does seem to have been a bit rum, not unlike the black, bleak, and sometimes comic characters one might find in any of his novels, not least his latest, *The Fools That Live On The Hill* (Hutchinson, £11.95). There was, for instance, his father's brother, Uncle Leslie, who never married but stayed at home to look after his mother and became trapped.

"She was a horrible old creature, mean as hell. He had a hell of a life and began to think he might be queer. He came and asked my father about it, and told him what he suspected. And my father's reply was, 'I trust you've seen a doctor about this'."

"When my grandmother died at the age of 89, unlamented, certainly by me, Uncle Leslie went literally around the world having everything that moved (in the way of women). Amazing! Nothing queer about him. He'd just been living such a distorted life."

"The poor thing died after



Kingsley Amis: "I was a Communist at school and went to party meetings. That was because my father was such a reactionary. It wasn't totally wasted because it showed me in retrospect how devious Communists were"

about 18 months, but he did have a jolly good fling before he went."

On the other side of the family was his mother's sister, Dora, who looked after her mother, too, and who was known in the family as being a bit funny. Eventually she got so funny they put her away. "She wasn't mad at all really, just suffering an obsessive's anxiety neurosis, but in those days anyone who was a bit funny got put inside."

"Then the news came that her mother was dead and immediately she said, 'What day is it? What year is it?' Nothing was left of her funniness. Isn't it extraordinary?"

While all this was going on in the background, the young Amis was progressing through childhood. "I can remember at seven or eight saying to my mother that I had nothing to do and she suggested I write something, not because she wanted to encourage me to be a writer but just so that I might amuse myself."

"And I did amuse myself. I used to write stories and tried to produce a little comic, tracing round advertisements in the newspaper and writing stories to go with them. I also used to write little poems based on those I read at school or in books my

parents had bought me - Victorian or Edwardian school stories."

Unlike most boys he did not look forward to the holidays, preferring the camaraderie of school. First there was Norbury College, a small fee-paying place, which has now disappeared leaving behind it only two famous

alumni, Amis and Derek Bentley, then the City of London School, which his father and two of his uncles had attended and which he enjoyed. He was now developing tastes not completely to his family's liking. At first he liked classical music, for which his father had little time, although his parents did buy him a gramophone, and then he discovered jazz.

"My father didn't like jazz either," he laughs. "I remember playing a record of Duke Ellington who had started to become symphonic. I think it was his 'Black, Brown and Beige Suite' - very highbrow - and my father said it made him think of a lot of cannibals dancing around a pot of human remains. It was closer to Debussy actually."

In 1939 the outbreak of war meant that the City of London School was evacuated to Marlborough ("only in term-time. We went back to London to be bombed in the holidays"), and from there he got an exhibition to St John's College, Oxford to read English.

Almost the first thing he did at

more about Jack Teagarden and Sydney Bechet than Keats.

"The convention of the time was that getting a degree was something you had to do and examinations were a matter of outwitting the examiners. So we didn't discuss poetry much, although he did get me to have a second go at Auden and read John Betjeman."

"I knew of Betjeman as a writer on architecture and as someone who had written some rather funny poems. But Philip said, 'They're better than that.'"

"Philip was already writing poetry and when I saw some of his work I could see instantly, with some chagrin and much envy, that he was much better at it than I was. He was a good example to me in that he used to say you have to work at it and get it right. It seems an obvious lesson, but you have to learn it."

On the subject of getting work published, Larkin also came up with a typically honest method. "There's one absolutely certain way to get something published," he told Amis, "and that is to write something which is very, very

good." Before he could do this, Amis was called up and spent from 1942 to 1945 in the Royal Signal Corps, taking part in the Allied invasion of Europe. He was behind the lines but close enough to see the terrible litter of German dead, the body of a horse still in the shafts of the gun carriage it had been pulling, its gums receding into a death snarl.

In 1945 he returned to Oxford, rather than be sent to the Far East with the Army, a decision he has occasionally regretted, and set about working, courting and then, with his first-class degree in the bag, writing his first novel, *The Legacy*.

It was never published despite the efforts of a chum, Kenneth Tynan ("a very nice man, a bloody idiot, but a nice man"), who had taken him to lunch with Mark Longman. That was a good connection but not good enough. In the end, no one else liked *The Legacy* either.

"I'd done a lot of poetry that was absolutely worthless and then this novel was absolute crap. Part of it still exists somewhere in America. It was one of those novels where the hero is called Kingsley Amis and has a brother

called Sydney Amis, a sort of Mr Hyde. A horrible semi-expectant novel. The only time it rose as high as being mediocre was when it was about Berkhamsted which is where I was living at the time with my parents. I milked it slightly in 1960 with *Take a Girl Like You*."

"I just got all that modernist rubbish out of my system. This was one of the advantages of not having any literary connections. If I'd been in the position of my son Martin, who couldn't help but know all the literary editors, I'd have probably got the thing published and it would have taken me 10 years to recover."

In the event it did take some years to get off the mark in that it was not until 1954 when he was 32 that his first book, *Lucky Jim*, was published. By this time he was lecturing at University College, Swansea.

"People would say I was a late starter. But I was an early starter. I was just late getting anything published, for which I'm very grateful. There's nothing else I could have done but write. I'm very lucky. I'm one of the few people who has been able to do what I've always wanted to do and live off it."

by Ray Connolly

Oxford was to join the Communist Party. "That was to do my father in the eye because he was a very plain case of a reactionary. I'd been a Communist at school. We had a mock parliament and I was on the extreme left of the popular front. I read all those frightful pamphlets. And I wasted a certain amount of time going to their meetings."

"But it wasn't totally wasted because it showed me in retrospect how devious Communists were. I started inching to the right almost immediately."

More fruitful was the association he formed in the first week with Philip Larkin. "We talked

## Growing up delightfully on Pitcairn



Jason Christian Warren awaits the island's big moment on Christmas Day. In the morning, the men cut festive trees, and in mid-afternoon the islanders decorate the trees with presents. Then mayhem ensues as the men cut free the presents and call out the recipients' names. Everybody gives everybody something, if only a couple of fishing weights.

Continued from page 33

between parents and their sons and daughters serving their last two years of secondary education at boarding schools in New Zealand. Younger children are taught on the island by a teacher from New Zealand, who serves a two-year term and has 13 pupils on his roll at the moment. As a place to grow up, Pitcairn is delightful. Children wander freely between homes, and receive meals wherever they happen to feel hungry. There are no locked doors.

New Zealand is the primary external point of contact. If islanders are seriously ill, that is where they go for treatment. If some exceptional item of equipment too big for the longboats is required, like the island's single bulldozer, the Kiwi air force can organize an air-drop.

More than 1,000 Pitcairners live in New Zealand and Australia, and another 500 further afield. Generations of emigration have resulted in there being far more Pitcairners living overseas than the island could ever accommodate at one time.

The influence of radio and videos, which are a favourite entertainment when the island's electricity generator is working in the evenings, have made the islanders bilingual, or bi-dialectal. Talking to outsiders, they use English; talking to each other, they speak Pitcairnese - basically seafaring English of the 18th century, with a mixture of Polynesian elements, notably in fish names such as *nanwe* and *uhu*. Long archaic vowel sounds survive in it like "hooam" for "home", as well as words reminiscent of Marryat and Defoe.

"How do you enjoy Pitcairn week?" an islander may ask, bringing the almost-forgotten word "victuals" back to life.

But the new is gradually displacing the old. Thirteen-year-old Darrahn Warren talks about guns, where her aunt Meranda still speaks of muskets.

Isolation makes for a close-knit society, with a high premium on sharing and mutual help. In the past, the economy was one in which cash had little place. To this day, islanders aged between 15 and 60 are under an obligation to turn out and lend a hand with public works if they hear the bell in the main square toll three times. If stores need to be shifted or a blocked road needs to be cleared, everyone is expected to turn up, and anyone who hangs back will be told off roundly for slacking.

Often, passing ships make gifts to the community, and then the long-

**'Pitcairn children wander freely between homes, and receive meals wherever they feel hungry. There are no locked doors'**

established procedure of the share-out comes into play. I remember a stock of frozen meat coming ashore at dusk from an Austrian freighter. In the arc-lights of the jetty, mighty Jay Warren swung an axe to chop frozen turkeys neatly into halves. This made it possible to assemble as many turkey-meat piles as there were families represented on Tub. Then, following a method once used by British seamen, Steve Christian pointed to a pile while Dave Brown, his back turned, shouted who was to receive this particular pile. Unarguably fair shares for all.

These were carried off in the three and four-wheeled Honda all-terrain vehicles, which everyone uses. These fat-tired buggies are so popular that it is uncommon to see a Pitcairner on foot outside the village of Adamstown, so called in honour of John Adams, the only mutineer to survive the feuds of the first 10 years. He became the patriarch of a God-fearing settlement from which strong liquor was banned. Today both smoking and

drinking are rare indulgences.

The square is a charming enclave of white-boarded British coloniality. It is open to the north, and bounded on the east by the Seventh Day Adventist church, where the Bounty's Bible is lodged. To the south is the post office, the library and the dispensary where nurse Jen Ferret, the pastor's wife, deals with most ailments, and Steve Christian pulls a mean tooth.

On the west side is the Court House, the scene of public meetings rather than trials. Next to it is the office of the Island Secretary, Olive Christian. The Bounty's hatchet is kept hanging ominously over her head. The ship's anchor is also in the square, recovered from the sea in 1957.

The house where I stayed, and enjoyed laughs and much hospitality, is a typical one. It belongs to Jay and Carol Warren. It has hardboard walls on termite-treated wooden frames, and a corrugated aluminium roof, which is used to collect rainwater in the absence of a reliable spring. Their son, Dean, was away at school in New Zealand, so I could stay in his room with its shelves crowded with Elvis and Abba tapes.

The evidence of a declining population is all too evident. Outside the central square, it is impossible not to notice the tumbledown houses and encroaching vegetation. It is almost a surprise to find an occupied house. Many of the gardens, which the islanders' ancestors carved out of the vanished forests, have been taken over by a scrub of rose apple and lantana.

Pitcairn's rock carvings and stone tools record a Polynesian occupation that ended before the Bounty's arrival. The island was abandoned once. Now, again, it faces an uncertain future. As Tom Christian, one of the most reflective islanders, says: "It's difficult to know whether anybody will be here in the future. There isn't really a great deal here. But it's certainly a lot more peaceful than many other places in the world."

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## LONDON TO PEKING MOTORING CHALLENGE

## Three thousand leagues across the sea

Graham Rock and his wife Joan are representing *The Times* in the London to Peking Motoring Challenge which sets off on April 7



Practice run: Graham Rock (in the driver's seat) and his wife Joan test drive their Mercedes-Benz in preparation for the challenges of the 9,162 mile journey from Marble Arch, London, to the Italian Embassy, Peking

At eight o'clock in the morning on April 7, a 1912 Lancia Simplex Speedster will be driven sedately from Hyde Park, past Marble Arch and along Piccadilly, en route for China; accompanied by the band of the Welsh Guards it will be leading 70 vehicles, all hoping to complete the London to Peking Motoring Challenge.

The drive is the culmination of five years' planning by Philip Morrell and the staff of his travel company, Voyages Jules Verne; his initiative has led to the opening of the Russian-Chinese border between Alma-Ata and Yining.

The challenge is neither a rally nor a race; participants will have succeeded if they arrive safely at the Italian Embassy in Peking, a site chosen in deference to Prince Scipione Borghese who, with the journalist Luigi Barzini, won the 1907 Peking to Paris race. Driving an Itai, they pioneered a northern route through Siberia, over the Urals and then via St Petersburg and Berlin to Paris.

The participants of 1990 will take 54 days, making their way to Istanbul, where the convoy will assemble before departing for Turkey, Georgia and Baku. The cars will cross the Caspian Sea by ferry, the Oxus River on specially constructed pontoons, drive through Turkmenistan to the Silk Road, labour through the Gobi Desert, inspect the Terracotta Army at Xi'an, and reach Peking on May 30.

For those unwilling to drive 9,162 miles, a spectator coach will accompany the tour, as will a repair van carrying essential tools and spares.

The challengers are as diverse as the vehicles, with a sprinkling of European nobility and American new money among the nine nations represented. Cars produced by Rolls-Royce, Bugatti and Mercedes will motor beside two Model A Fords, a Morris Minor, a Lada and a 1939 BSA motorbike and sidecar. Baron Guy de

Wimmet will attempt the trip in a London taxi.

Entry for the Motoring Challenge is not for the faint of heart. Drivers will have paid £10,000 and passengers £5,000; it is costly to bring back vehicles — about £2,000 — and not particularly practical to sell them at the end of the journey.

Colin Mole, who gave up his job as an electrician six months ago to concentrate on the challenge, has found it hard to raise the fee. Despite driving a very British Morris Minor, he could not find sponsorship from a British company, but the Soviet and Chinese tourist associations stepped in.

Our own experience to obtain a vehicle for *The Times* is simply recorded: Land Rover fawned and then fled; Mitsubishi was dismissive ("We can't get enough Shoguns for our customers"), but Mercedes-Benz delivered the goods in the sleek shape of a £37,000 300SE saloon.

Contemplating its leather interior, our first thought was to pack a couple of sleeping bags; the seats might prove more comfortable than the beds we will encounter on the way.

Some drivers will continue to Hong Kong and Jose Lisboa from Portugal is hoping to attract the attention of the Guinness Book of Records by starting at Sagres on

the west coast of Portugal, joining the challenge in Paris and, after reaching Hong Kong, continuing to Macau, a journey of 13,000 miles.

Mr Lisboa has spent some time trying to persuade the Soviet and Chinese authorities to permit his private plane to accompany him throughout, and he will be taking along two South American musicians, armed with flutes, guitars and bongo drums. Others on the trip with similar inclinations have been asked by the organizers to pack their musical instruments.

The Lisboa Trio hopes to entertain the citizens en route in return for the proposed hospitality, which includes official dinners, several concerts and a *son et lumière* in Samarkand.

What began as an unlikely dream has become reality for Philip Morrell, who remembers the nascent months of the challenge: "We planned the trip as if the Russian-Chinese border were open."

"However, it soon developed into a situation where officials from both countries were saying that they would agree to the border

being opened if the other side agreed. We were cabling the Russian Embassy every other day, and we cabled Gorbachev."

An agreement was eventually reached and a series of train journeys between London and Xi'an were staged. There was no track for 220 miles between Alma-Ata and Yining, so the passengers had to cross the border by road. The challengers will take a route which broadly tracks the established rail journey and, once the event is over, Mr Morrell believes that the road will be open to all.

Challengers signed up as long ago as the summer of 1988 and the event has survived the political upheavals of the past year. The original route, through Azerbaijan and Baku, was abandoned for a while in favour of another route further north, but a more settled political environment has put it back on the itinerary.

The Tiananmen Square massacre could have put paid to the challenge, but Mr Morrell is aware of the pragmatic expediency of the Chinese. "Remember, we ran a tour by train into China three months after Tiananmen Square. I didn't think the events would jeopardize the challenge; after all, we are the largest supplier of European tourists to China."

Political problems have not been confined to Asia. The conservative mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, gave permission for the

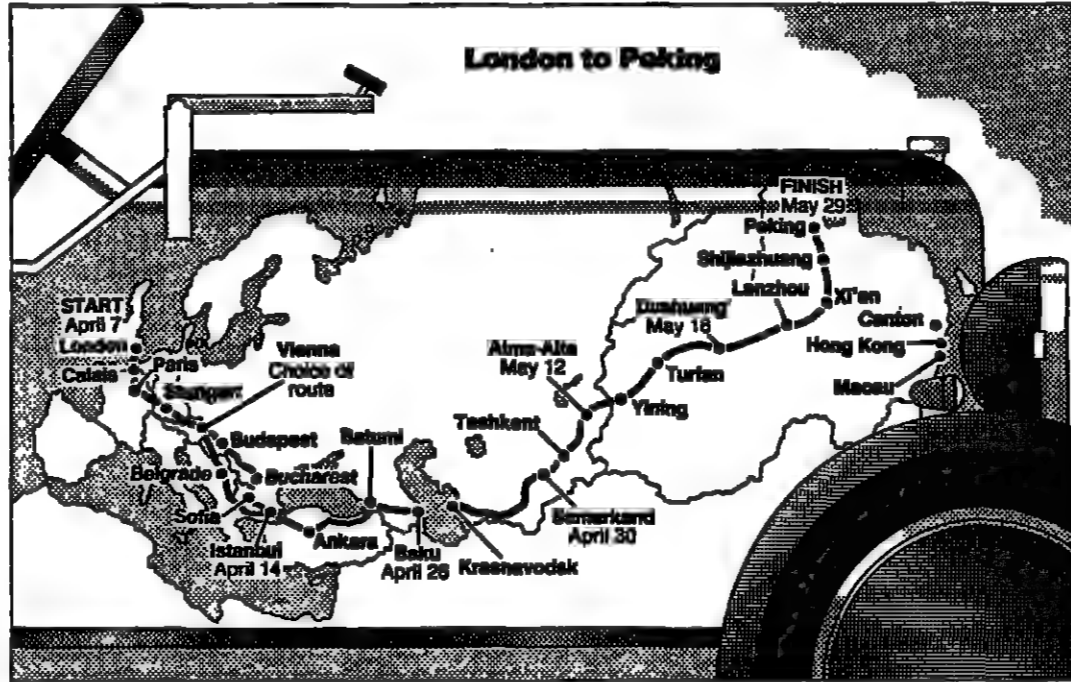
convoy to drive down the Champs Elysees, but the French traffic police, controlled by the Socialists, refused on the grounds that a skateboarding championship was taking place at the same time. After frantic negotiations in Paris last week, an uneasy compromise was reached.

Mr Morrell is diplomatic about the difficulties of organizing not only the route, but also the participants. "These are not ordinary tourists. They are 160 individuals from different social backgrounds, all with personal requirements and quite different from the sort of clients you would get on a package tour," he said.

Voyages Jules Verne has made arrangements for fuel to be supplied throughout, using tankers at specified points, and some of the worst deprivations have been eliminated. "Where basic facilities don't exist, such as in the middle of the Gobi Desert, we've had to provide them."

Those unable to participate in the Motoring Challenge can take heart. Voyages Jules Verne has organized a London to Saigon event next year, with an optional extension to Singapore, and the team has already started work on a London to New York event, via Siberia and Alaska. Book early to avoid disappointment.

● Graham Rock will file regular reports to *The Times* from the London to Peking Challenge.



## CAMPUS

## Where, what and why?

Choosing a course and a place of study is not as simple as it sounds, but don't despair

University is a must for my chosen career

What might that be... a night-watchman?



It's that time of year when school-leavers are being forced to think about their future. They wonder whether sixth-form examinations really have significance, influenced, perhaps, by members of school staff who are starting to mumble about "predictions" or by the realization that they do not have the faintest idea of what they want to do next. Suddenly remaining as a student becomes an attractive prospect. There is no rush to join the real world.

It is often difficult for teachers to understand that not everyone is so sure of their future that they are certain of their desire to study mechanical engineering or medicine. In subjects such as psychology, which is popular at the moment, the student has not had any experience and knows only that it sounds more interesting than yet more maths or, worse, law ("always a good degree, even if you're not thinking of carrying it on any further"). Little do these advisors know that a law degree is notorious for being one of the most boring of all. Help, as always, is in limited supply. "You're not the only person in this class/school/family" (delete as applicable). When you have crossed that first barrier, and have decided that not only do you want to remain a student but you know what it is you want to study, the fun really starts.

The choice of polytechnic or university is not as straightforward as it sounds. Even though this is a time when you actually want advice, for some strange reason your parents generally decide to become so selfless that they just cannot interfere.

Faced with countless prospectuses, you are likely to follow one of two options. The first is particularly applicable if you are the eldest son or daughter, or the first in the family to attend university. The whole system of applications is a new experience to you and your parents, and thus can seem exciting. Often even the school staff take an interest. You spend your time reading intently and, naturally, are anxious to go to all possible open days, even though some people suspect you do it simply for the chance to get time off school. If you follow this method you are likely to end up confused by everything and will either make the perfect decision or give up and take a year off.

If you are the youngest child, your parents have seen it all before and know that this momentous decision will seem momentous only to you. You will probably find that your school or college, knowing something of your background, will leave you to get on with everything yourself.

Having received no help, you make your choices primarily because you have heard other people's favourable reports. However, you must remember that it is a

bad idea to go to the same university as a sister or brother. Not only have they seen it all before, but particularly when you are in the first year, they are likely to keep trying to prove that their knowledge is superior to yours. Your parents, by this time, will know the system and you will have very little chance of persuading them that first year lectures start at 3pm when they try to phone you every morning before you are awake.

Hopefully this advice from an old hand of two terms will be of use. Whatever college you choose, stick with it, and eventually you will convince yourself, and everyone else, that this was exactly the place you always wanted to attend.

Wherever you go, it should be enjoyable. After all, the fun starts when you get there. ● Sarah Ebner is a student at the London School of Economics

and success or failure in this can produce totally different grades from those achieved by sitting examination papers.

Much can depend on the teacher who marks the course work. A selection of work from each school is then sent to a moderator. There is a problem with this system: those of us fortunate enough to attend private schools are often expected to produce work of a high standard, and teachers may subconsciously have higher expectations for their pupils' work and therefore are more stringent when awarding high grades. Similarly, it is possible that in any school teachers mark work too generously as a form of encouragement for pupils who are a little weak in the subject. I would suggest that GCSE moderators dislike altering too many marks for two main reasons: first, it can be seen as an insult to the set tutor and, second, alteration of marks involves much paperwork. Who is to moderate the moderator? Time is important for all of us, and many moderators have to teach in schools as well as keep to deadlines.

● Jeremy Stowe is a pupil at Leeds Grammar School

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## EATING OUT

White bean dishes can be a delight or a disaster. Jonathan Meades tastes both sides in cassoulet and feijoada

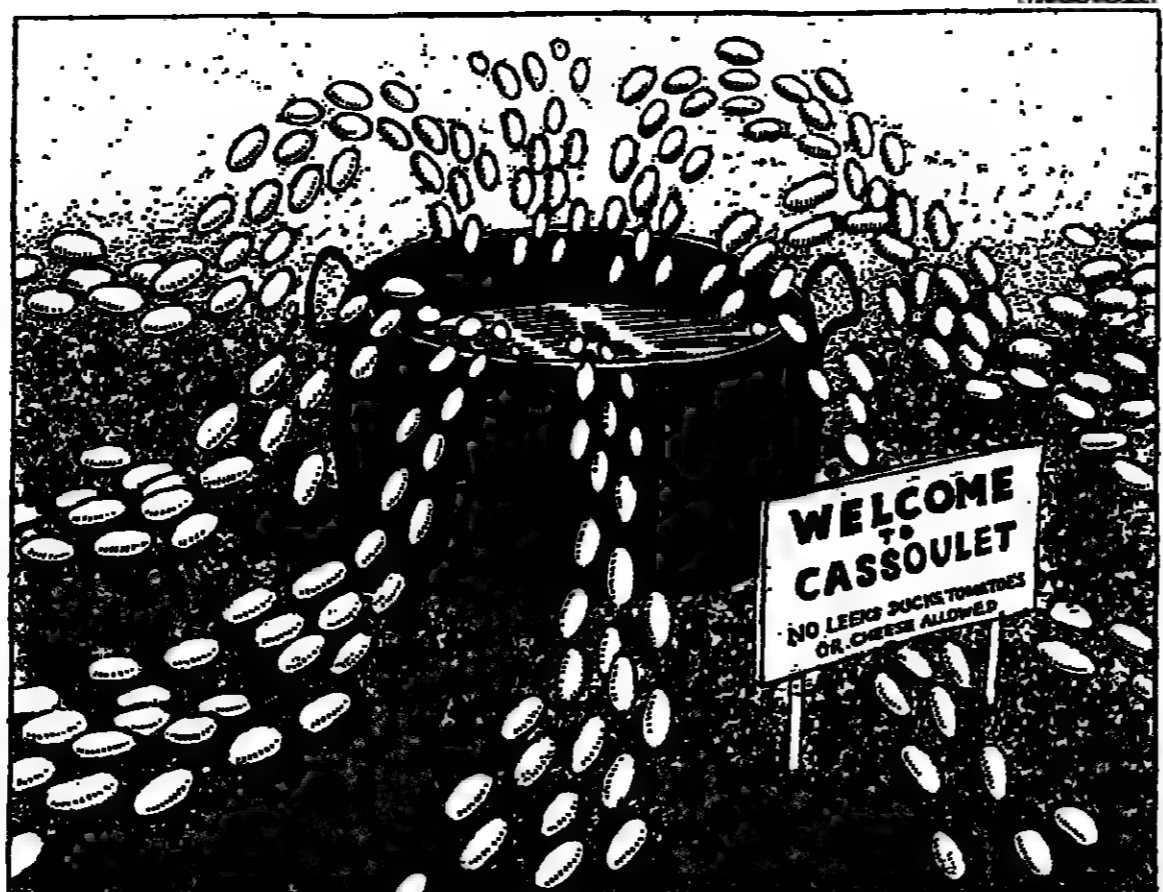
## One too many for the pot

The greatest of all dishes based on the dried white bean is cassoulet, though Paula Wolfert, in *The Cooking of South West France*, contends that before that bean was cultivated in France it was prepared with broad beans (as it still is at Andre Dagnin's Hotel de France in Auch). Both Elizabeth David and the late Jane Grigson suggest that the beans should be of the Soissons or Arpajon varieties. Mrs Grigson's recipe in *Charcuterie and French Pot Cooking* remains, incidentally, the soundest and, typically, least dogmatic of those which I know in English. Leaving aside the endless potential for argument over what meats should be included, I'd suggest that Soissons beans are too large — after soaking they're anything up to an inch in length and commensurately thick. The celebrated Gascon chef Raymond Oliver gives several recipes in *Art de Magie de la Cuisine* (1956), but doesn't stipulate what sort of bean should be used. Nor, for that matter, does Ford Madox Ford: Cyril Ray's *Complete Imbiber 14* reprints an article of Mr Ford's in which that most French of English novelists states that "from Montpellier, France, the dish spread to Montpelier, Vermont, and so to Massachusetts, where, simplified, it became Boston baked beans and port". Mr Ford also stated in *The Philosophy of The Kitchen Garden*, that he had once seen a mirage of Boulogne from the Marine Promenade at Folkestone — so maybe his version of the dish's migration and mutation should be taken with a pinch of something or other. He also reports that in Castelnauary grated cheese is added to the cassoulet just before serving. Can this ever have been the case? Regrettably, yes; regrettably, the practice of throwing in anything still persists. Cassoulet, like pot au feu, comes as a godsend to the indiscriminate cook and to the corner-cutting chef. More chefs make it badly than make it well and thus those who might make it well

are deterred because the enterprise has acquired a bad name — that, anyway, may be the main reason why none of the top flight London chefs habitually essays it. Another cause of their shunning it is the practical one of portion-control, of ensuring that each diner gets a bit of confit, a bit of fresh pig, a bit of salt pork, etc.

The chef at Cassis in Putney cannot, in all honesty, be accused of belonging to the top flight. He blithely bodes a cassoulet that is as disappointing as this season's performance by the cassoulet-nurtured French rugby XV; like that team, Cassis's cassoulet is lacklustre and tired. Furthermore it is greasy, and contains, of all things, leeks. This simply isn't on. And nor is the presence of duck which tastes as though it has been reheated over several weeks. If the duck was confit, which I doubt, it had been subjected to that preserving process for too little time — confit duck is akin to "corned" meat, it is filamentous. The stuff here is merely over-boiled. The confectio otherwise comprises a passable Toulouse sausage, some flabby garlic sausage, veal and pork hocks and tiny beans. I'm afraid, too, that there was tomato in there somewhere.

This is an establishment that is better at shopping than at cooking. It has shopped well for Sixties film posters — not the films of Godard, Resnais and the art-mob, but films with titles such as *Melodie en sous-sol* (with Gabin and Delon), *Maigret voit rouge* (Gabin), *Comme s'il en pleuvait* (Eddy Constantine). It shops well, too: for its *andouillette*, which it doesn't mess about; for its excellent cheese; and for its meat — a decent *entrecote* was served with a decent *bordelaise* sauce (which is, I admit, cooking). Vegetables are mainly notable for having been dunked in cream, and a broccoli soup for being composed of green water. Le Tour Putney appears to accept what's thrown at it without question. The service is brisk (and brusque), the prices are



low, the wines are perfectly acceptable. Two devotees of non-evolved London French bistros will pay about £45.

Although Soissons and Arpajon are both situated in the Ile de France, it's as likely as not that the white bean, which is of central American origin, found its way to France by way of Spain. One facet of France's culinary culture is its talent for borrowing and improving on the cooking of its neighbours. The best German cooking is to be found in Alsace. Similarly cassoulet may derive, as its modern form, from the northern Spanish white bean stew called *fabada* which, in turn, is etymologically linked to the Portuguese (and Brazilian) *feijoada*. The dish may be transatlantic, the names are clashing. Casa Santana does a *feijoada* which hints at the visceral richness of a true cassoulet; its ingredients may be those of the indigenous kitchen but the dish is not used as a dustbin. On the other

**CASSIS**  
★★★  
30 Putney High Street, London SW15 (01-788 8868)  
Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat.  
E48. Major cards.  
**CASA SANTANA**  
★★★  
44 Golborne Road, London W10 (01-988 8764)  
Lunch and dinner every day. £22. No credit cards.

hand, a restaurant such as Cassis could not get away from serving it for the simple reason that its clientele is not composed of French autoethnics. The clientele at Casa Santana is, in contrast, Portuguese: Golborne Road is the western boundary of Iberian London, which stretches east through Westbourne Hill and Harrow Road and Maida Hill and Paddington to Edgware Road. This is not the Iberian London of opportunistic tapas bars, but where the majority of the peninsula's immigrants live (a minority lives in Elephant and Castle, Kensington, Lambeth).

The sun — and I believe we've all agreed on this one — does not shine from the north-east. Were it to, it would make the Trellick Tower cast its shadow down Golborne Road. The Trellick Tower is the sculptural marvel that rises (bi-partite: flats and separate lift shaft) to the north of the Westway. It dominates Golborne Road which is a poor man's Portobello. It is the block where Martin Amis's idealized self-portrait, Keith Talent, lives with his dog, Clive in *London Fields*. The facade of Casa Santana recalls the author of animal stories, Allison Uley. Stuck on this facade is an elevation of a house with a steeply pitched roof like that where Hare and his chums lived. What would they have made of Casa Santana's off-putting *feijoada*? Here would, I hope, have loved it; here at the brains of baby rabbits. This stew

comprises beans, pork *morcela* (black or blood pudding), *chouriço* (sausage flavoured with pimenton and chilli), pig cheek, smoked pork. It is brick red, not from any intrusion of tomato but from further dosage of pimenton. It's served with rice. There are several other good, unrefined dishes to be had here: char-grilled squid; char-grilled salt cod; a *chouriço* set on the table in a flaming pottery pig which is designed to such an end and which is cut-away to allow oil to be poured inside it and set light to.

The sweets — baked apple, etc. — are all right, and so is the cheese. But the main move is across the road to the Lisboa Patisserie which does numbingly sweet egg custard tarts and a variety of other cakes that about about Portugal's proximity to Morocco.

Casa Santana is, as I say, not intended for other than a Portuguese clientele. The concessions it makes to British tastes are touchingly wrong-headed: mint-sauce is offered with lamb, for instance. Men (but not women) come in for lunch and eat either at the bar or in front of bleating video consoles. There's a lot of hanging about. The pop music is (natch) Portuguese and sounds (natch) like the Bee Gees in translation. I very much doubt whether the decor will win any awards. But the wine might: the house wine is Dao by the (vast) pitcher and is apt — it goes with the grub. Two will pay about £32.

## DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

## ECLECTIC

**Hiders**  
785 Fulham Road, London SW6 (01-738 8534)  
★★★★★  
Dimly lit, swishly decorated haven for the braying middle class. Service is exceptionally smooth and much of the cooking is good. Kidney and sweetbreads with two sauces, chicken and goat's cheese mousses, the crème brûlée, well selected English and French farmhouse cheeses. £20.

**Alastair Little**  
49 Fifth Street, London W1 (01-734 5183)  
★★★★★  
Austere surroundings. Terrific cooking though, by the former page three boy of the "Gestapo" world. The menu changes twice daily and the eclectic (north Italian, Danish, Japanese) might suggest indecision — but Little takes it all on board, gives everything his own care and gimmickless twist, and is completely in control of his ingredients and materials. Fairly priced wine, utilitarian though friendly service. £70.

**Nichols**  
75 Fairfax Road, London NW6 (01-624 3867)  
★★★★★  
At first glance this appears to be yet another standard haute cuisine sort of modified nouvelle cuisine. Further investigation reveals it to be a serious and often inspired place whose cooking is both technically sound and very tasty: lamb tongue with grain mustard sauce, smoked haddock sautéed with olive butter sauce, *foie gras* of sweetbreads and kidneys, tremendous fondant potatoes with a crisp crust, the sweets. £45 plus.

**Wilmans**  
143 Ebury Street, London SW1 (01-730 4088)  
★★★★★  
Small individualistic place on the fringes of Belgravia. The wines are outstanding and so is some of the cooking, notably the earthy dishes such as a quail cassoulet or lentils and confit of duck and pheasant. But too many dishes are over-ambitious and rather gimmicky compositions. Sweets are good. £25.

**Popples**  
★★★★★  
The Roebuck, Brimfield, Ludlow, Shropshire (058 472 230)  
There are all sorts of good things here: Duffell's cider, delicious

cheeses, nice wines at decent prices. Beyond all that is the cooking which is restrained, savoury, pleasing. The chef, Carol Evans, is a good cook with meat and even better at local, i.e., freshwater, fish. £38.

**Tell O'Brien**  
676 Fulham Road, London SW6 (01-371 9673)  
★★★★★  
Wine bar cum restaurant that serves simple and commendable cooking in a small ground floor space and a larger basement. The decorative scheme is early Eighties and looks rather shabby. The service is gormless. The prices, however, are friendly. Puddings are stuffed with onions and artichoke, pear and almond tart and so on. The wines are inexpensive and well chosen. £40.

**The Quality Chop House**  
54 Farringdon Road, London EC1 (01-837 5093)  
★★★★★  
A former working men's dining room with high back settles and unadorned wooden tables. The restoration of the premises has been executed with diligence and sobriety. The cooking is mostly grills — veal chop with mustard sauce, rib eye steak and so on. The meat is excellent and the timing is spot on. The salmon fish cakes with sorrel sauce are lovely. An altogether welcome address in an area where decent establishments are thin on the ground. £28-£40.

**Mustard's**  
80 Long Lane, London EC1 (01-796 4920)  
★★★  
Cute and fashionable menu which tries to hedge its bets in an eclectic sprawl across the globe. Fish cakes are all right and so is a sausage flavoured with mustard seed. £20.

**YORK**

**McCoy's**  
17 Gledelgare, York (0304 612181)  
★★★★★  
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## FOOD

## Overripe for success

What would you do with a carambola? Or a sapodilla for that matter? I am old enough to remember a childhood without tropical fruit and the excitement with which we welcomed the post-war return of bananas and pineapples. Now such fruit are everyday familiars. To rank as exotic nowadays, fruit has not only to be far from home (winter strawberries are that), but practically unheard of, too.

The leaders in the field (apart, of course, from Harrods food halls and adventurous independents) have been Safeway and Waitrose. Visits to local branches of Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury early this week yielded only kiwifruit, papaya and mangoes (everywhere), and carambola (also known as starfruit). There were fresh dates at Tesco and apple bananas (miniature, thinly skinned and sweeter than the usual ones) at Sainsbury, but Waitrose was also offering Israeli kumquats, passionfruit from Zimbabwe, Brazilian guavas, Japanese pears, Tientsin-ya pears from China, Jamaican ugli fruit and Colombian tamarillos.

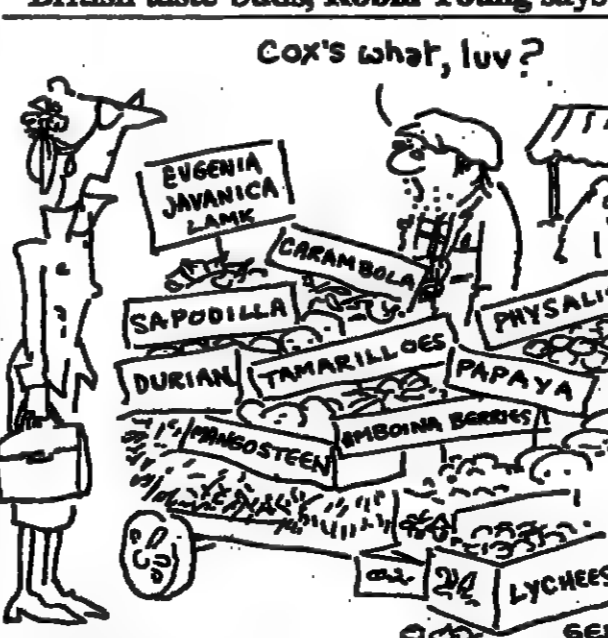
Fancy foreign fruits are a rapidly expanding market. Last year Britons ate five times more mangoes than they did 10 years ago. Papaya (or pawpaw), which is available from many different countries, and sharon fruit (which is Israel's improved version of the Italian persimmon) are already following, or even overtaking, mangoes in popularity.

The exotic success which everyone craves is that of kiwifruit (originally actinidia or Chinese gooseberry), the erstwhile symbol of nouvelle cuisine. Kiwifruit is blessed with a bright green colour and a pleasant, slightly sour flavour. It also has the virtue of keeping for weeks and is actually good for you too. A kiwifruit contains more vitamin C than a lemon.

Nowadays, kiwifruit sell even in small village green-grocers' stores for as little as 15p. What will be the next exotic to emulate such ubiquitous popularity?

Val Gahunia, the exotics buyer for Safeway, pioneer in the field, thinks it could be the sapodilla, the fruit of the evergreen tree whose best-known product is its sap, chicla, which makes chewing

Exotic fruits are providing a thrill for British taste-buds, Robin Young says



gum. The sapodilla fruit looks a bit like a potato, but has yellowish-red pulp which is very sweet when ripe — and very astringent if not. "It tastes like an extra-sweet pear," Ms Gahunia says. "It has lots of potential if we can sell enough to get the price down."

Ms Gahunia's most recent successful innovation is the coquito nut — a sort of cocktail coconut from Chile. You can, Ms Gahunia suggests, dip it in chocolate for a home-made coconut-flavoured sweet, or coat it in marzipan.

Carambola, a widely grown Indian native with a smooth, waxy skin and five prominent ribs which give slices the shape of a star, tastes like a watery dessert gooseberry and would sell on visual appeal alone. There is also a sour version with a tart taste, sometimes used to make lemon drinks, but that is not imported here. Ms Gahunia says she had a delicious cheesecake topped with carambola in Israel, which could give home cooks a new idea for something to do with it.

Another exotic with strong visual appeal is physalis (a.k.a. Cape gooseberry), the baby tomato-like berry which comes with the fly-away wings of a straw-coloured calyx, resembling a Chinese lantern. It is served coated in fondant icing in restaurants, but is also delicious untreated.

One of the most delicious tropical fruits, and until recently one of the rarest, is the mangosteen — a tangerine-sized fruit with a purplish rind. The pulp is segmented like an orange, soft and melting, with a sweet, slightly acidic flavour rather like that of a fully ripe plum.

can say we are much smitten with tamarillo, but I see it regularly in Safeway and Waitrose. It is distantly related to the tomato, and the orange-red or violet fruit is egg-shaped and sharp to taste. It is best cut in half and sprinkled with sugar to eat raw, or served sliced.

New Zealand, the adopted home of the kiwifruit and creator of its international popularity, has another entrant in the exotic fruit stakes. The kiwano, or horned melon, relative of the cucumber with a downy, orange, tough skin, prickly to touch. "I ate it as it was and I was totally dismayed — I could not taste anything," Ms Gahunia says. "But when our home economists followed one of the New Zealanders' leaflet suggestions and scooped out the flesh to mix with yoghurt and honey, it was delicious."

Tesco has just finished testing trials for an extended range of exotic fruits which it intends to introduce at the end of April. Its choice of fruits includes Cape gooseberries, fresh dates, granadilla, pawpaw, passionfruit, carambola, lychees, sharon fruit, pomegranates and fresh figs. For the present, it will not offer rambutans, tamarillo, babaco, guava, kiwano, mangosteen, sapodilla or prickly pear — but all those are already available to Safeway branch managers willing to give them a try.

It is already easier to buy mangosteens than medlars, or tamarillos than quinces, and there is no shortage of other exotics we might soon see in our shops. No supermarket yet dares stock durian, whose pervasive and repulsive foetid odour hides the most extraordinarily delicious flavours. Durian is confined to Chinese shops as, apparently, are longans — another variant on lychees — with the blissful scientific name *Euphoria longana*. I have not seen Thai rose apples (*Eugenia javanica* Lamk) in Britain, the genuine jubilee (or Chinese date), the succulent West Indian mamee apple, the orange-red amberella or ambonia berry, or Scandinavian cloudberries. Ms Gahunia remembers something she saw sold in Singapore as snakefruit, but she was not able to ascertain its proper identity or find a source of supply. For the moment that is one that got away.

You don't need a cellar to start one.

## THE TIMES COOK

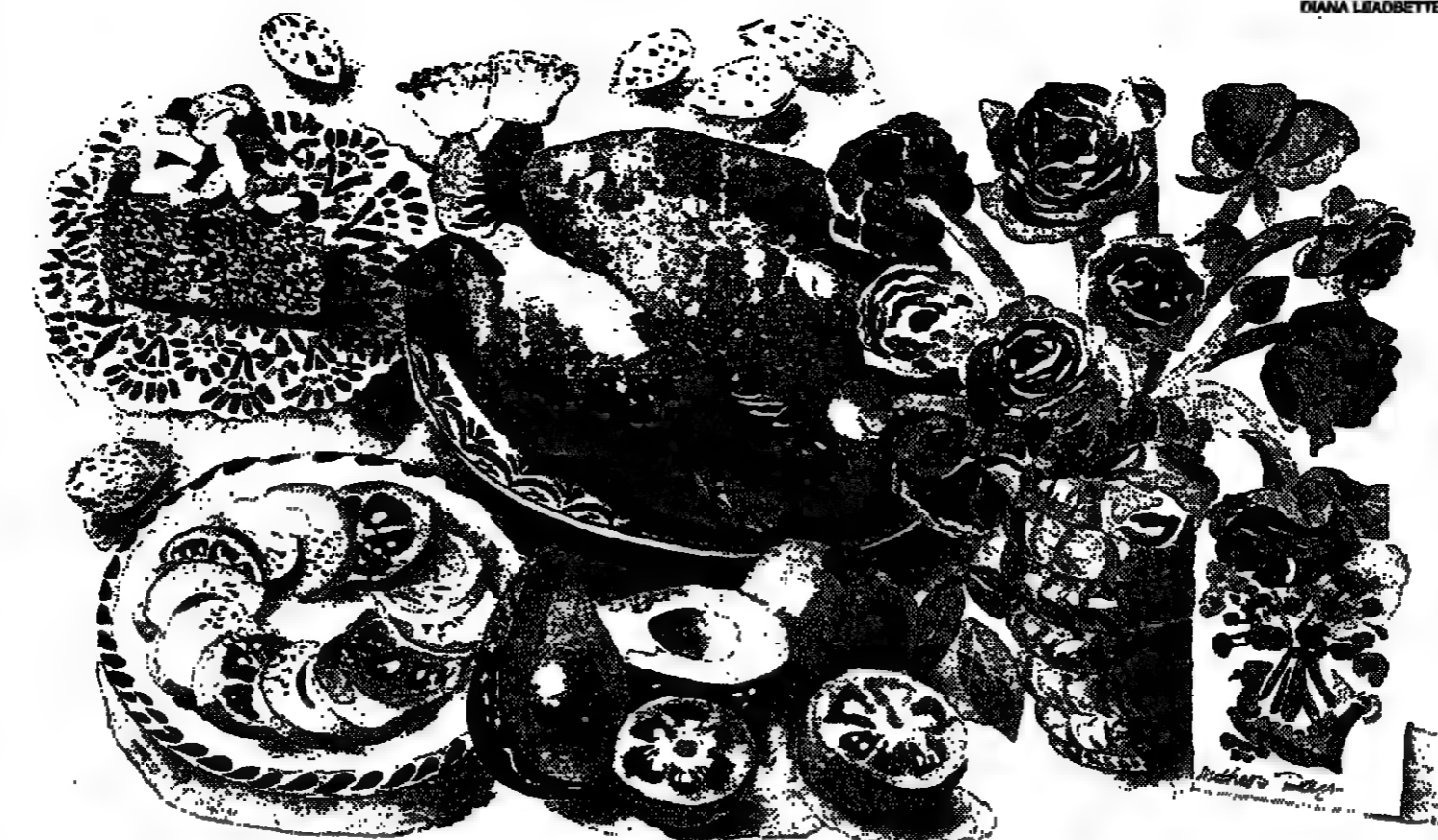
## Appealing to mothers

Frances Bissell  
suggests some  
simple ways to  
make sure that  
Mothering Sunday  
is a special  
occasion

Tomorrow is Mothering Sunday, so here are a few simple recipes just in case someone else feels like cooking Sunday lunch. The centrepiece is a handsome roast chicken which needs little preparation and which can be forgotten about once it is in the oven. Because it is cooked in a roasting bag, there is no need to baste it. Unadorned with sauces, spices and other disguises, the flavour of the chicken will be immediately apparent.

A boring (I was going to say old, but in fact they are young, which partly explains their lack of flavour) intensively reared chicken is not worth cooking in this way. Because they reach their table weight at only six or seven weeks old, they are not mature, and the flesh, while white and tender, is insipid. A real free-range chicken takes longer to reach table weight and is thus an older bird with more flavour and texture. One of my local butchers has started stocking the French Label Rouge birds, which are raised on a diet of 70 per cent cereal, and reach a minimum age of 84 days. These are firm textured and full flavoured, and the carcass after roasting makes marvellous stock for soup. There are also some British poultry rears who produce excellent free-range chickens, and many supermarkets sell them.

However, if the other kind of chicken is all you can get, the flavour can be enhanced by putting more herbs, spices, garlic, ginger, or what you will, inside the chicken before you put it in the roasting bag. Slivers of ginger and garlic can be inserted under the skin, and you can rub the bird all over with soy sauce or lemon juice and paprika. Smallish jacket potatoes can be put in the oven to cook at the same time as the chicken, or thinly sliced potatoes layered in an ovenproof dish with thinly sliced onion, seasoning, full cream milk and a



little butter, or stock to replace the milk and butter.

You might end the meal with some sliced oranges, fresh fruit salad or rhubarb fool, and start it with some smoked fish or Parma ham. Here is another easy starter which requires no cooking and very little preparation, although careful shopping is important. You need, for four people, a ripe avocado or two, two Mozzarella cheeses and half a dozen firm but ripe tomatoes, of which there are some good, fragrant specimens around at the moment. Peel the avocado, remove the stone, and slice all three ingredients. Arrange on individual plates. Dress liberally with extra virgin olive oil, add a few grinds of black pepper and sea salt and a small splash of sherry vinegar or other good quality wine vinegar. Mozzarella and tomatoes are better on their own if you cannot find ripe avocados.

Smoked mackerel and Arbroath smokies are also very good prepared in the following way: Smoked trout with cucumber and horse-radish cream (Serves 4)

Prepare the cucumber and horse-radish cream several hours in advance

4 smoked trout  
salad leaves  
lemon or lime wedges  
4 tsp cucumber and horse-radish cream

Skin the trout and place on individual plates with a selection of small salad leaves. Slice or cut the lemon or lime into wedges and arrange two or three pieces on each plate. Spoon some of the cream on to the plates and serve with brown bread or toast.

Cucumber and horse-radish cream (Serves 4 to 6)  
1 cucumber  
1 tsp salt  
2 tsp grated horse-radish  
1 or 2 cloves garlic, optional  
1 tsp double cream  
2-3 tsp thick plain yoghurt

Peel the cucumber and slice in half lengthways. Scrape out the seeds, and grate the cucumber into a sieve. Sprinkle with salt, set the sieve over a bowl, and let it drain for a few hours. A great deal of

liquid will be given off. Rinse the cucumber and squeeze dry in a clean tea towel. Mix the cucumber with the horse-radish, garlic if using it, cream and yoghurt. Refrigerate until required. You will probably be able to pour off more liquid before using it. A dusting of paprika or cayenne pepper can be added at the last minute, if you wish. This cream is also very good with cold cuts, including smoked turkey, chicken and spiced beef.

Roast chicken (Serves 4 to 6)

3-4 lb/1.35-1.80 kg free-range chicken  
salt  
pepper  
bay leaf  
twist of lemon zest  
handful of parsley stalks  
1oz/30g butter  
4tbsp good dry white wine or water, optional

Remove excess fat from the body cavity. Lightly season the bird inside and out, and put the bay leaf, lemon zest and parsley stalks inside the cavity. Carefully ease the skin away from the breast and, with

your fingers, spread the butter over the flesh under the skin, put the bird inside a roasting bag slit in two or three places on the top (so that the juices will not run out) and seal the bag. Place in the top half of a pre-heated oven, and roast at 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6, for 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours. Remove from the oven and, having untied the bag, carefully run off the juices into a saucepan. If there is plenty, you might not need to add the wine or water. In either case, bring the liquid to the boil, and let it simmer gently while you carve or cut up the bird. Save the carcass for the soup recipe.

Chicken noodle soup (Serves 4)  
1 roast chicken carcass  
1 medium onion  
4 cloves  
1 carrot  
1 celery stalk  
1 bay leaf  
1/2 lemon  
3oz/85g very thin dried pasta  
salt, pepper (optional)  
1tbsp finely chopped parsley

Remove any scraps of meat from the carcass, cover and refrigerate. Peel and quarter the onion, and stick a clove in each piece. Peel and roughly chop the carrot, trim and chop the celery. Chop or cut up the chicken carcass, and put in a large saucepan with the vegetables, bay leaf and thinly pared lemon zest. You can also add parsley stalks and a chopped leek for extra flavour if you have them. Cover with water, bring to the boil, and simmer for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Strain the soup into a clean saucepan, and simmer until reduced to 1 1/2-2pt/850ml-1.15l. Break up the pasta into 1in/2.5cm lengths and boil in the soup until tender. Season to taste, and add a little lemon juice, if you like, as well as stirring in the chopped parsley and reserved chicken.

The simnel cake, that dense, rich confection of fruit and marzipan, although a part of Mothering Sunday traditions in the past, is now more often served at Easter time. Requiring 1 1/2lb of marzipan, it is a rich and expensive cake to make. Instead, I suggest this almond cake, which has a lovely flavour and texture. Serve it after lunch with coffee or as a teatime cake. It would also make a very good present.

Almond cake for Mothering Sunday  
1/2lb/230g softened unsalted butter  
1/2lb/230g caster sugar  
5 eggs  
6oz/170g plain flour, sifted  
1/2lb/110g ground almonds  
1tbsp Amaretto or 1tsp almond essence, optional  
1oz/30g flaked or halved blanched almonds

Line and grease an 8in/20cm cake tin, and pre-heat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4. Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Separate the eggs, and beat the yolks in a bowl set over hot water until light and foamy. Whisk the egg whites. Mix the egg yolks into the creamed mixture, and then fold in the flour, ground almonds and Amaretto or almond essence, if using it. Lastly, fold in the egg whites very gently into the mixture, which should now have a soft dropping consistency. Spoon it into the cake tin, and level the top, making a slight depression in the centre. Arrange the almond halves on top, or simply scatter the flakes at random. Bake for about 1 1/4 hours or until a warmed skewer inserted deep into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

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## DRINK

## Teutonic, Gallic or both?

Wine-drinkers often have a confused picture of Alsace wines, but it's time to give them a chance, Jane MacQuitty says

"Good wine", so they say, "needs no bush". Yet the fine wines of Alsace continue to struggle, rather than stride, on to our wine shop shelves. 1988's export figures to the United Kingdom of 2.3 million bottles, an increase of 24 per cent on the previous year, may look impressive, but figures for 1989 show a 3 per cent drop. For years, it seems, the story has been the same: UK wine merchants praise the dry, lively, aromatic fruit of Alsace white wines, which are greeted mostly with indifference by their customers. Alsace has, and I suspect always will have, an image problem.

Situated in north-east France and separated from Germany by the River Rhine, Alsace and its wines are often confused with those of their less quality-minded neighbours. Last December Johnny Hugel, from Hugel & Fils which celebrated its 350th anniversary last year, pointed out: "The identity of Alsace wines is not established yet - it's better to put us among the white burgundies, which share the same high quality, but we will have to fight for that." Olivier Humbrecht, from the Alsace company Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, shares M. Hugel's concern. "We have very strange names, we have so many wines, it's frightening for the consumer. But it can be an advantage. If there is no choice, then there is no pleasure, it's boring. The only problem for us is to reach the people."

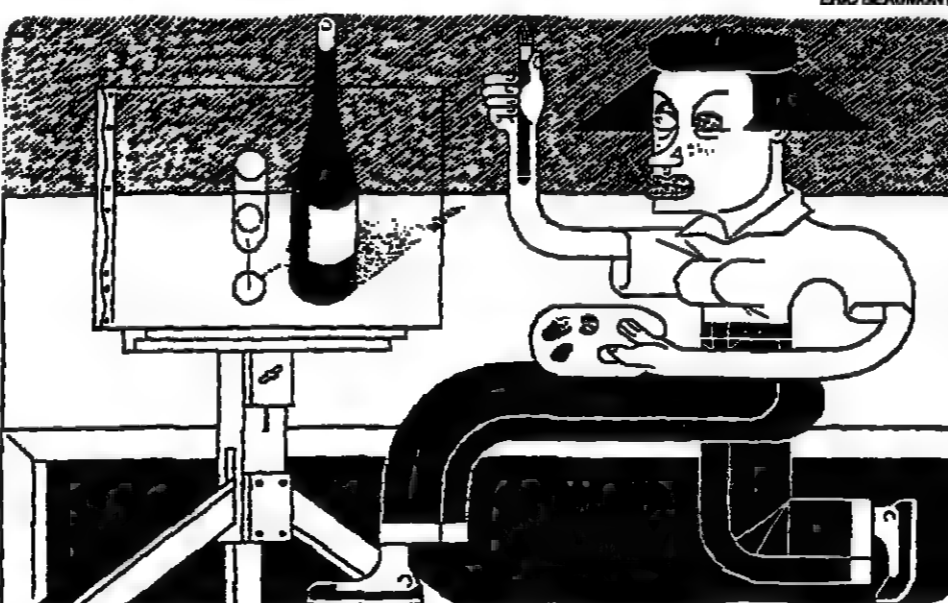
This is not as easy as it sounds. For a start the presentation of Alsace wines, in tall green, fluted bottles with heavy Gothic script, is more German in style than French. Important Alsace wine villages such as Riquewihr, Kaysersberg and Eguisheim sound more Teutonic than Gallic. Similarly, the new

Alsace grand cru vineyard designation boasts names such as Osterberg, Hengst and Spiegel. And anyone who has visited this pretty region with its neat vineyards surrounding medieval villages, will know how like Germany and unlike France Alsace looks.

It is not coincidence that has created this confusion. Despite the fiercely French attitude of its people today, Alsace was German for many years. As a result of the Thirty years' War, the Franco-Prussian War and the First and Second World Wars, Alsace switched from Germany to France, to Germany, and back again, until 1944, when it finally became French. As a result, the wine-making traditions of Alsace are a mix between those of France and Germany.

The confusion continues when wine drinkers take their first sip of an Alsace wine. These wines may smell sweetly aromatic, but they taste bone dry. So, instead of the anticipated sweet, grapey German wine flavours, tasters register a dry, almost austere wine style. To confuse drinkers even further, the seven leading grape varieties of Alsace display a similar mix between French and German traditions.

The most widely planted variety is the Germanic Riesling grape that produces the finest Alsace wines, with amazing flowery, steely elegance that reminds me of limes and lime blossom. The next most popular Alsace grape is France's Pinot Blanc, whose best wines offer soft, fruity, almost pineapple-like flavours, reminiscent of the Chardonnay grape. In third



position is the distinctive Gewürztraminer grape, another German variety, whose powerful, spicy, lychee, rose and violet-scented wines are the most distinctive in the wine world. Next in line is Sylvaner which, like the other top three Alsace grapes, accounts for roughly one fifth of the region's 32,000 acres of vines. This is another Teutonic-style variety, often referred to as the workhorse Alsace grape because of its ability to produce pleasant, inexpensive, light, fruity wines.

After the big four comes the only red variety of Alsace, Burgundy's Pinot Noir grape. Grown in the more northerly but still sunny Alsace region, the Pinot Noir grape here produces more of a rose than a red wine. After that comes the

grape variety of Alsace is the fragrant, grapey, flowering-currant like Muscat that goes down well as an aperitif. Alsace, like most French wine regions, also has a small percentage of hodgepodge grapes dominated by the humdrum Chasselas.

With this background of confusion, Alsace desperately needs a clutch of first-class vintages to encourage drinkers to get to grips with its wine styles and promote its good wine-making name. At last nature has obliged with the splendid '88, deemed the best vintage since

'83, and the superlative '89, thought by many producers to be the best they have ever seen and similar to the great '76 vintage. Both the '88 and '89 vintages were early: '88 was a fortnight earlier than usual after an early flowering, followed by a sunny summer and mixed weather at vintage time that did not seem to harm the crop. A long, sunny autumn in 1988 ensured that large quantities of vendange tardive, or late-picked, wines were made in addition to the Sélection de Grains Nobles, or late-harvested Alsace wines affected by noble rot, and as such sweet and luscious in style.

The '89 harvest came in three weeks earlier than usual and appears to have been a textbook vintage with, for once, not a cloud in the sky. The flowering was again earlier than usual, and the summer that followed was magnificent. Less late-harvest style wines appear to have been made in '89, and there are worries, too, about the disastrously high yields some growers aimed for, in some cases twice the level that quality producers would have looked for. Yet, if yields were kept down, as the glorious wines I tasted in December most certainly were, the results are sensational.

While we wait for the '89s to go on sale here, we can enjoy the excellent '88s. Supermarkets and off-licences have some impressive '88s on their shelves and, apart from Oddbins's perfumed, grapey, elegant '88 Scherer Pinot Blanc (£2.99) that I have written about before, try Sainsbury's '88 Alsace Pinot Blanc, from the Bennwilr co-

operative, with its light, grapey-flowery style (£3.15). Other good, widely available '88s include Waitrose's splendid '88 Tokay Pinot Gris from Ritzenthaler, whose perfumed scent and rich, peachy-grapey palate is a snip (£3.75). Turckheim is currently the leading Alsace co-operative, and its '88 Gewürztraminer Cuvée Réserve, with its intense rich, smoky spice, is a delight (Victoria Wine £4.79, Peter Dominic £4.69).

Other high street outlets with good Alsace lists include Thresher, with the extraordinarily good Zind-Humbrecht wines. Its '88 Zind-Humbrecht Tokay-Pinot Gris, Vieille Vigne, is a delicious, rich, perfumed, intense, smoky-flowery wine (Wine Rack £9.55, Wine Society £9.65). Anyone who is serious about buying the '88 Alsace vintage should get in touch with the Wine Society, Gunne's Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, which has 11 different '88s to choose from in an Alsace offer that is closing now. Splendid Hugel wines such as the rich, flowery-fruity '88 Riesling Cuvée Tradition (£8.50) and the finer, more austere '88 Riesling Jubilee Réserve Personnelle (£11.25), along with the ripe, spicy, rose-scented '88 Gewürztraminer Tradition (£8.35) and Jubilee Gewürztraminer (£10.75) are all worth saving up for.

Also contact Hicks & Don, 4 The Market Place, Westbury, Wiltshire, which has six of the fine Falser '88s included in its '88 Alsace wine offer. The Falser family of the Domaine Weinbach is dedicated to quality, and any wine with Falser on the label will not be a disappointment. Look out for the flowery, lime-like '88 Riesling, grand cru Schlossberg and the scented, spicy '88 Gewürztraminer, Réserve Particulière.

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Dinner is very nearly over. You pull the small, icy BOTTLE of Petite Liqueur from its bed of ice. Slowly, you unwrap the foil and await the gentle pop. The two waiting glasses turn GOLD as you pour, thousands of tiny bubbles rising LAZILY to the surface.

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WINE BUYS  
This prodigious Portuguese red wine available, which is a pity for it deserves a wider audience. Made by the Ferreira port wine family, from classic port wine grapes, at the Quinta do Vale do Meão close to the Douro's Spanish border, it is packed with distinguished, full-bodied, herbaceous fruit. Open several hours before serving to get the best from this bottle.  
1988 Safeway Côtes du Roussillon-Villages, Safeway, £2.45.  
Not a great bottle of wine, but Safeway's own-label Côtes du Roussillon-Villages, with its spicy scent and damson plum taste, is good value.  
1988 Safeway Zagonon, Vino Bianco Joven, Safeway, £2.49.  
Again not a great wine, but Safeway's cheap and cheerful, soft, flowery, lime-like wine, made from the Airen grape grown on the hot plains of La Mancha, makes an inexpensive March white.  
1981 Barca Velha, A. A. Ferreira, Wine Rack, £16.95. There is precious little of

This week's protests by growers in Beaujolais, campaigning against new, stringent EC regulations and what they view as the unjust trial of several of their confrères, are unlikely to move Britain's wine traders (Jane MacQuitty writes).  
With Beaujolais prices going through the roof, it is hard to feel much compassion for the growers of this ever-popular wine-growing region, who have plainly had it too good for too long.  
The future at Villefranche-sur-Saône, Beaujolais' southern capital, concerns the usual wine scandals of excessive chaptalization, over-produc-

tion and blending in wine from outside the region, before passing it off as Beaujolais' best. Regular visitors to the region have been aware of these problems for years. But with the apparently insatiable demand for the soft, gulpable fruit of Beaujolais' Gamay grape, they have accelerated. It was only a matter of time before the French wine fraud squad inspectors caught up with certain Beaujolais grower's malpractices.  
Whatever the outcome of

## Grape gripes

the Villefranche trial, Beaujolais' growers will have to clean up their act. It is to be hoped that this will put an end to "Beaujolais" that reeks of the warm, peppery spice of the Rhône valley, its neighbour to the south, and those bottles whose alcohol level has been pepped up to a higher degree. This is done by chaptalization, a traditional French wine practice, illegal in Italy, where by sugar is added to the fermenting must to increase the alcohol content of the

finished wine. The current EC directive insists that Beaujolais growers can only, via chaptalization, raise their wine's alcohol content by two degrees. Producers often get away with twice that level.  
Given this scandal, the 14 per cent drop in value of sterling against the French franc since last summer and the high prices charged by Beaujolais producers for the fine 1989 vintage, I doubt Beaujolais will be the UK's favourite wine of 1990. We shall soon have ordinary Beaujolais-Villages going on sale here for £5 a bottle and cru names such as Fleurie for more than £7.

# In pursuit of the ultimate liquid line

Jackson Pollock was 1950s America's cartoon Modern Artist: his mural-size doodles were props as essential to the neurotic *New Yorker* skit as analyst's couch and martini glass. The put-downs were diverse, but the subtext was consistent: America's struggle to decide whether the Golden Boy was some bodacious phoney cowboy, or the brilliant primal sun of an entirely "new" but discernibly native art. Quite possibly he was both.

Derision and hagiography are often two sides of the same coin (rearrange those letters to form "icon"); and the economy in which it circulates — as William Shawn, longtime editor of the *New Yorker* is quoted as saying here — is one of transient "reputation" rather than true worth. There were European precedents for Pollock's Abstract Expressionism, but it was important to America that it have an American version — a chip off the old Frontier block, a taciturn bruiser who also happened to paint. Sophisticates invested heavy critical stock in the artist (a famous *Life* article ran "is he the greatest living painter in the United States?"), while Pollock himself scowled on the sidelines, sullen, chain-smoking, and invariably — for this truly is an American saga — completely bombed.

Pollock was a monumental boozier (and, when boozing, a monumental bore); he was a great one for the grand scale and, in that

**Ian Penman**  
follows the Pollock  
saga, and discovers  
an artist  
totally sourced

**JACKSON POLLOCK**  
An American Saga  
By Steven Naifeh and  
Gregory White Smith  
Barrie & Jenkins, £19.95

respect, he's gotten the biography he deserves. At 900 pages (100 pages of source notes alone) Naifeh and Smith's *American Saga* leaves no *Sturm und Drang*. The *Saga* of Pollock belongs alongside other massive tomes about other massive toppers like Fitzgerald and Hemingway: the sauce artist, completely sourced.

Once Naifeh and Smith have established that like many an alcoholic artist — and many alcoholic artists — Pollock followed a working cycle that alternated lush inactivity and flights of energy unconfined, all the book can do is repeat itself. Like the artist at his most blotchy, one keeps turning the same corner, hitting the same blind spot. Naifeh and Smith's provision of detail goes way beyond the call of

natural curiosity: this is life in "miniature" on the scale of Dos Passos or Thomas Wolfe (claim every mountain, file every stream). Before Pollock's story has even begun, we're bogged down in such stuff as his mother's childhood was made of: "The first pie in spring was always dried apple and peach." Swell as the first line in a Richard Ford story, maybe, but you begin to wonder if you mightn't learn more about Pollock from a snappy cultural historian (Robert Hughes or John Lahr, say) with a short essay brief. What we get is a big ball of fuzzy yarn, when a little acuity would go a long way. The relentless accumulation of human(s) detritus also serves to obscure the *Zeitgeist* of certain crucial times — such as a Presbyterian childhood of strange prohibitions and proscriptions; and later the world of New York art critics, and a bunch of even stranger prohibitions and proscriptions.

During his short span Pollock was elevated to intellectual celebrity status, but he remained something of a hick. (Even Clement Greenberg — who did most of the elevating — said as much.) Like Jack Kerouac, Pollock was an avatar of American Epic who essentially never left the womb. Mother-fixed and cocooned inside a boozing which was less a form of relaxation than of deathly penance, this was the artist-as-adolescent: able to expand restlessly over new territories, but also ready to snap selfishly shut, reducing the world to a solitary "I".

Pollock had few interests outside his own ambition, was an exhibitionistic pain, wasn't even an amusing drunk: the authors try hard to round things out (a dash of Jung, a dab of Freud), but in the final analysis Pollock just isn't a particularly nice guy to get to know — which makes the book's length all the harder to swallow.

The paintings remain — the world Pollock wove, when he kept his head above the suffocating blue ocean of booze. Painting was a utopian space, and the line of his work is the trace of a man transported. There was a shamanistic aspect to Pollock — all that it was harnessed up for the occasional passing Hasidic and in his greatest work the colours of American nature are retouched with a ferociously divine light: Pollock literally painted from on high, as a God surveying the massive space of American creation. The trouble is, *Saga* contains only a handful of postage-stamped reproductions of Pollock's work; and so if it reignites our interest in the paintings, it equally frustrates any desire to view them anew.

Pollock painted like he drank: messily, but with a secret logic in pursuit of the ultimate liquid line, the Big Star. Always stabilizing the tangle are very evident patterns — a solid core of figuration, a bedrock. His abstraction was an escape (on an epic scale) from the pains of articulation, and this makes him an American son *par excellence*. *An American Saga* is fittingly outside; but where Pollock's own bullying transcendence of scale strained toward a desperate immediacy of expression, Naifeh and Smith seem merely to have overstretched an all too finite canvas.

The College Essay, genus *Curriculum Vitae*, Biographical Literaria family, has long been an integral part of the admissions procedure at Ivy League universities in America, and is a remarkably flexible species. Intended, along with the College Interview, to highlight personal qualities that no examination results can reveal, it bears a resemblance to the school exercise on the subject "How I Spent My Summer Holiday". The difference is that the essay has an aim, demonstrating the applicant's ability to disguise platitudinous sycophancy as youthful idealism, and curvilinear shrewdness as rebellious innocence. It is, in short, an expanded, dramatic version of the hostile question put to a Cabinet Minister at a Cambridge University Conservative meeting.

To open Nicholas Gage's memoir somewhere in the middle is to be ensnared in the intricacies of the genre. The child refugee from war-torn Greece, whose mother had been murdered by communist guerrillas, is now an American "college junior" and future "investigative reporter" for the *New York Times*, who says of a friend:

His experience working for the Peace Corps made my work for the Gazette seem trivial by

"Honesty is inversely proportional to the ambition to lie"  
Andrei Navrozov on Greek and Russian accounts of émigré

comparison. The previous Christmas he had arrived at his post in a barrio called Ilog in the southern Philippines to teach in an overcrowded school where the students had to provide their own chairs. To get to school every day he had to travel three miles, riding a bike through sugar-cane fields...

Modesty and an open mind, qualities essential in an applicant, having been demonstrated, it is only proper that the young man should exhibit some scepticism.

After reading, in the *New York Times*, of a book by an editor of the *New York Times*, Gage investigates Arthur Gell's claim that the playwright Eugene O'Neill burned his last manuscripts. He finds that O'Neill's old room, in a building owned by the university Gage is attending, never had a fireplace. The editor is open-minded: "That was a nice piece of investigative reporting." The investigative reporter is modest: "Getting praise from the *New York Times* was heady stuff for a college junior."

And so idealism — hah, call it naïveté — and a willingness to

question the most eternal of verities (once you doubt the *New York Times*, there is no end to paradoxes) lead to recognition, and a magnificent career in journalism. Yet one may also read this memoir from the beginning. The nine-year-old Nikola Gatzoyannis arrives in New York with his three sisters (the fourth, still in Greece, was to escape from her communist captors and join the family later) to be met by his father, who had left years earlier to give his children an "American home".

The elder Gatzoyannis is not the millionaire they had hoped he would be, and his dogged pursuit of the American dream is indirectly responsible for the death of his wife back in Greece. But the family is at last reunited, settled in a New England town and about to begin a new life.

The story of that beginning is told by the boy who witnessed it — Nikola Gatzoyannis — not the

"investigative reporter" Nicholas Gage, as he rechristens himself once he realizes that the *New York Times*, rather than a pizza take-away in Worcester, Massachusetts, is "A Place for Us". In consequence, this fragment of family chronicle is genuine, intelligent, starting: Gatzoyannis-Cage, a Greek immigrant who is tellingly

uninvolved in the story, is... well, a writer. While the genre demands that he artfully intermingles with self-serving fictions, *A Place for Us* divides these

between two eras in the protagonist's life. Tear out the second half of the book, let us say from page 251 on, and you will have 250 pages of truthful, observant prose.

The moral fundamentalism of Greek immigrants, as described by Gatzoyannis-Cage, is eroded by the commercial relativism of American society. An axiom? No, a theorem, and it is worth buying the book to read his proof. "Do not

## A PLACE FOR US

By Nicholas Gage  
Bantam Press, £14.95

## THE OTHER RUSSIA

By Michael Glenny  
and Norman Stone  
Faber, £14.99

Shirley George

# Where we are coming from

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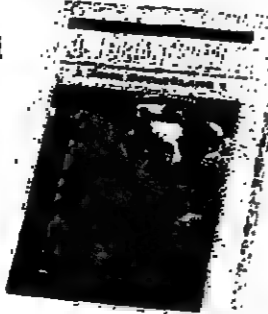


Golden Boy Pollock: brilliant sun, or phoney cowboy of American art?

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**TLS**

## Dr O's body of literature

Byron Rogers

**BOTTOMS UP**  
and **BOSWELL'S CLAP**  
By William Ober, M.D.  
Allison and Busby, £11.95 each



Flipping away: literary effects

this and other familiar classics which will never be the same again. It is also likely that an even larger number of schoolboys are going to find they will never forget them. Amazing what an author's clinical notes will do. Teaching Eng. Lit. to some bored fifth formers I said that one of the set texts, Andean's "Lay your sleeping head, my love...", would not have been addressed to a woman: most of the class got their O levels after that.

We are so respectful of Eng. Lit. that it is startling to come on someone like Ober, who has ambled behind the scenery with a flash-light. You may recall the force of the imagery in Francis Thompson's "The Hound of Heaven" in which the poet is pursued by God. This, says the doctor, is due to the fact that all his life the poet was terrified of being pursued by dogs ("He could not hide his terror of our retriever Nelson"). Invert the name, dog, God, and the man is away.

Swinnerton is of course a clinical dream, being mysteriously expelled

from Eton after the school found its punishments were not having the desired effect (Swinnerton was to warble on about the flogging block for the rest of his life). He writes well, does Dr Ober: Watts, Swinnerton's rescuer, "took a grubby schoolboy of 42 and turned him into a clean old man". The poet then fell in love with a boy of five called Bertie, to whom he wrote on holiday, "I pine for the touch of a finger/The curb of a strong king's hand." Bertie, the doctor notes, did not become a strong king but a chartered surveyor.

The trouble with the doctor is that he does feel a need to justify himself: mischief is not enough. Thus he builds up a brisk dossier on D. H. Lawrence to show that Lawrence was a repressed homosexual, and that an act of buggery is at the centre of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Nothing new about this (Ober acknowledges his debt to Warden Sparrow), but the fact that Lawrence is a humbug, and his sermons shaky, allows the doctor to maintain that his clinical notes are

more than gossip, and can affect the way you approach the book.

This may be so, but most people are going to read him for the gossip. They will be fascinated by the torments poor Boswell suffered when the quacks treated his gonorrhoea, and by Dr Ober's research into that old piece of folklore about erections in hanged men (there are none). You can hardly believe your luck; these books are the equivalent of running into a Home Office pathologist in a pub.

Dr O. plays to the gallery naming one essay "All the Colours of the Gallery", another "The End of Rochester and Ejaculation Perseus" ("Only too haste zeal my hopes did foil/Pressing to feed her lamp, I split my Oil"). There is an essay called "The Iconography of Fanny Hill", which allows the doctor and his publishers to print the various attempts to illustrate the book. Believe me, he is good value, the old doc.

I recommend both books reservedly. He was going on a long journey, murmured the great Frank Buckland on his death-bed, and hoped to see some strange things. The nice thing about Doctor Ober is that he has been, and come back, and all you need do is sit there.

## Feet on the ground, no kidding

POETRY

Robert Nye

**SELECTED POEMS 1990**  
By D. J. Enright  
Oxford, £6.95

**LIFE BY OTHER MEANS**  
Essays on D. J. Enright  
Edited by Jacqueline Sims  
Oxford, £15

observation. His favourite word might be *mild*, or maybe *small*:

The big words fail to fit. Like giant boxes  
Round small bodies: Taking up  
Improper room,  
Where so much withering is,  
and so much bloom.

That is the conclusion of a modest, uncompromising, and moving poem called "On the Death of a Child". Not another refusal to mourn, be it noticed, but a sort of muttered prayer to find a little grace and proportion to mourn properly. I admire this poem, and there are others quite as good in Enright's *Selected Poems 1990*, a solid book, and funny as well as sad. At best, indeed, funny and sad in the one breath:

My mother's strongest religious feeling  
Was that Catholics were a sinister lot;  
She would hardly trust even a  
lapsed one.  
My father was a lapsed Catholic.

Light verse is an art, like any other, with few masters. This is sharp and entertaining stuff, though it would

be sharper if it rhymed and scanned. Still, Enright rings true here, as elsewhere, and it is this element of not kidding, even when he is kidding, that I like in his work. I believe him about his mother and his father. I wish he had written more, with a wider emotional range, about other important experiences: wives, lovers, children, friends.

At 70, a man might also be reckoned by the quality of those friends. *Life By Other Means* collects 21 essays about Enright's life and work by A. S. Byatt, Donald Davis, Derwent May, Patricia Beer, Anthony Thwaite, Paul Theroux, and others.

Blake Morrison has a telling anecdote. An American critic had asked the poet if anyone had ever applied the phrase "obsessive humanity" to his work.

No, said Enright, he didn't think they had. But he wouldn't object to it. "What else is there to be obsessed with?"



# are coming from

the native":  
and world view

ask to me or my father will kill me," says one of Nikola's sisters. "I had the option of living or dying," says Nikola's father. "I chose none of us is going to die, then the important thing is to live out our years with dignity. The two apothegms — a warning to a potential employer — belong to one view. Ownership of house-appliances is not happiness. A who do not value chastity or understand freedom. Honour is an abstraction. Russian émigrés share this view? In my experience, yes. Reading *The Other Russia*, one is led to wonder. To what I am to call the Gatzoyannis-Law of Life in Exile, "honesty is proportional to the alien to become native", the Gatzoyannis compilation of some interviews with émigrés is a corollary. "Intelligence is proportional to the effort made in the process." The doesn't read the *New York* in," one interviewee says of a

fellow exile, "he's not an intelligent man." (The man in question, Vladimir Maximov, one of the most gifted men of letters in the Russian diaspora, is not interviewed.)

"They now consider that they are the last remaining Orthodox Church which has not defiled itself," the Metropolitan of the Moscow Patriarchal Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom, Anthony Bloom, says mockingly of "the other church", the Russian Orthodox Church which, being itself an exile, obeys Constantinople. "They have anathematized those who joined the World Council of Churches," he exclaims incredulously.

Thus, while not in the College Essay genre, the Glenny-Stone compilation recreates the atmosphere of a College Interview. All points of view are welcome. But space is limited.

Indeed, this Faber guide to the Russian soul is a mere half-thousand pages. I offer the reader an addendum. "Let us repeat in our day the words of Plutarch's ancient warrior: 'Late at night in a savage land far from Rome I pitched my tent and my tent became Rome for me.'" Old man Gatzoyannis would have understood where Nabokov, as a college junior might put it, was coming from.

## Country life without tears

Mr Alnutt, is what we are into the world to rise above," Katherine Hepburn admonishes Humphrey Bogart while sitting along the river in *The Queen's Gambit*. For Mr Alnutt, is what he is put in front to sink into. It is the latest example of a great American tradition, the personal history of nature. His predecessors Thoreau and Emerson, Joseph Krutch and E. B. White. He goes from them in his relentless analysis, which he intersperses with observations on wildlife. Although all essays on nature since

Andrew Sinclair

HEART'S DESIRE  
By Edward Hoagland  
Collins Harvill, £15

and howl and and history. Edward Hoagland adds Kraftwerk and Freud. He agrees with Freud on one thing, that nature is a man. "She likes eating, drinking and sunning." So does this man, and he likes confessing too. He confesses that Thoreau and Emerson are his heroes; he hates them as much as Thoreau did. He always wrote that he liked it, well a suburban boy and a city boy. Hoagland has a certain feeling for urban people who go out to the wilderness, but he lives in a bought farmhouse with 100 acres of land half the year. It is a life without tears. The essays in *Heart's Desire* are fine. The style is deceptively simple and inconsequential, like a sold over a butane-gas fire. It is the crafted art of the secular. Yet Hoagland is no secular philosopher, but a La Fontaine. When he tells animal tales, they sometimes have general human behav-

iour; but while the Frenchman was a fabulist, Hoagland deals in stray facts. He knows all about wolves and bears, possums and turtles, and then transfers the backwoods to the back streets.

Talking of himself as a "City Rat" in his early escapades with young women in New York, he ends up seeing himself as a "Middle-aged Coyote". His laconic epigrams about what animals do are splendid. He sees some of his characteristics in theirs. His observations seem inevitable, although they are fresh-minded and funny. He tells a tale of howling with a red wolf and finding that he was answering a windmill. And then he quotes Thoreau: "Generally speaking, a howling wilderness does not howl."

His casual lead into every essay is as button-holing as Samuel Taylor Coleridge used to be, when he launched into his anecdotes more insistently than the Ancient Mariner. Charles Lamb told the story of cutting off his overcoat button when Coleridge was holding it in the street. He went off, and came back half-an-hour later to find Coleridge still talking to the button.

But then, Coleridge was short-sighted, while Hoagland has an eye as sharp as a bald eagle. We may choose to pick up Hoagland or to pass him by. But if he is picked up, he cannot be put down. He is damnably beguiling, except when he whinges about his deviant frailties. Reading *Heart's Desire* makes me think of that contemporary of Thoreau and Emerson, the self-important Margaret Fuller, who declared in a lecture: "I accept the universe." In the back row of the audience, Thomas Carlyle growled, "You'd better."

Edward Hoagland teaches us to accept the universe and nature, even our own, if not always his.

## The child as father to the criminal

Frances Hill

THE FAMILY OF  
PASCUAL DUARTE  
By Camilo José Cela  
Little, Brown and Company,  
£3.99

There can be few accounts of a forlorn childhood anywhere in world literature to match this one. The ingredients are standard: poverty, isolation; lack of education; a violent, drunken father and angry, ignorant mother. But the details are unpredictable and devastating.

When the father, of an evening, reads out the paper to the illiterate mother, she claims he is not really reading but making everything up, a rowdies and he thrashes her. As soon as the narrator's younger sister is born, the father calls the mother a hussy and slaps her at her with the buckle-end of his belt. Before the birth of her next child the mother locks the father in a cupboard because she fears he has rabies. He howls for two days. When he falls silent she opens the door and he is dead.

In one of the most horrific scenes in the book Mario, the narrator's handicapped younger brother, has his ears bitten off by a dog. Later he bites his mother's finger on the leg and the mother kicks him in the place where an ear was. For the two hours the boy stays on the premises the mother ignores the child, but for the rest of the night cradles him in her arms, licking his wound.

"The kid let himself be loved, and smiled... That night was the only time in his life, surely, that I

ever saw him smile." Precise descriptions and images, sparing us nothing, compel our belief. However grotesque the events and behaviour, they ring true.

The tone of this first-person narrative, perfectly rendered in translation, is one of bitter shame and depression under jaunty resignation. It tells us everything there is to know about his gruesome childhood's effect on the narrator.

That a crime will come we know. The book is written as a "confession". The narrative's power derives partly from our being kept in suspense till the end as to the deed that has landed Duarte in jail.

The second half of the book, after the grown narrator's small son dies, maintains suspense, though it does not achieve the same stunning authenticity as the first half. But this novel, first published in 1942 and the chief cause of Cela's being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature last year, deserves its reputation as a small masterpiece.

## The law's lone ranger

CRIME

Lisanne Radice

WHAT HAPPENED TO  
ROSIE DUNN?  
By Tom Beauford  
Penguin £3.99

THE MONKEY'S  
RAINCOAT  
By Robert Crais  
Penguin, £3.50

As created by Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, the private eye is a person slightly apart from the criminal world, scrupulously honest in his actions, a man who rescues maidens, usually tarnished, in distress, and faces up to the issues of guilt, responsibility and deceit which lie at the heart of all crime fiction.

He is also a loner in two respects: technically he works outside the law-and-order process (in which the police are corrupted or corruptible), and morally he sees himself very much as the archetypal outsider determined to hang on to his independence.

The modern condition of society is also a major preoccupation. The attitude of the hero to his environment was encapsulated by Raymond Chandler in his famous essay, "The Simple Art of Murder".

In everything that can be called art there is a quality of redemption. It may be pure tragedy, if it is high tragedy, and it may be pity and irony, and it may be the raucous laughter of the strong man. But down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid.

Penguin has given us two new-coming to the genre, Australian Tom Beauford, and American Robert Crais. The former's private eye is Sophie Parnell, who investigates the death of her strange, aloof cousin, Rosie Dunn, daughter of one of Sydney's leading heart surgeons. We quickly learn of her involvement with powerful and corrupt society figures.

Large Sophie is a memorable heroine; more introspective than a

woman of action, she is a woman with a conscience who plays the game by her own rules. A one-time lawyer, she turned to private investigation when she discovered that "the sleaze and nobility of the soul were lacking" in the law. Beauford's sharply observed but gentle approach gives an interesting slant and added strength and subtlety to the carefully wrought, if sometimes over-convoluted, plot.

Elvis Cole, a literate survivor of the Vietnam war and now living in Hollywood, is the hero of Robert Crais's new private eye novel. Cole's search for Ellen Lang's unsavoury husband and their young son leads him through the seamy side of Hollywood studio lots and beautiful private mansions into an underworld of drugs, sex, and murder.

His damsel in distress, true to tradition, proves that the American dream is a tarnished reflection of selfish preoccupations. Somewhat in the Robert B. Parker tradition, *The Monkey's Raincoat*, though it adds no new dimension to the genre, is nevertheless a witty and stylish addition to private eye fiction.

## John Grigg on the autobiography of an Indian Europhile

When Nirad Chaudhuri's *Autobiography of an Un- known Indian* appeared in 1951, the title was immediately contradicted because the book made him a celebrity overnight. He was then in his mid-fifties and had not yet visited this country, whose culture, however, he had prodigiously absorbed during his long years of obscurity. He has since produced 10 further books of which the latest, his second volume of autobiography, is now (like its predecessor) in paperback. Since 1970 he and his wife have been living in north Oxford, and at the age of 92 he has just been made an honorary D.Litt by the university.

His autobiographical style is expansive, to say the least. The present volume, covering about 30 years of his life, runs to nearly 1,000 pages. But then he writes about himself in a vast context, including the history of India during his time, as the subtle acknowledgements, and many other aspects of the human condition. A.J. Baker said of Chaudhuri's *World Crisis* that it was "autobiography disguised as a history of the universe". One might say of Chaudhuri that he writes a history of the universe disguised as autobiography.

Yet that would not be quite fair, because the personal side of his account is admirably candid and vivid. He tells, for instance, of his arranged marriage when he was a struggling journalist in Calcutta. He gave his father *carte blanche* to choose a wife for him, and when they married, Amiya was a complete stranger. His worst fear was that she would dislike European music, which had become almost a religion to him; but he was determined to give it up if she did not like it. Fortunately she took to it as soon as she heard the first records he played to her, and a special favourite during their early days together was Mozart's 39th symphony. Half a century later, hearing the allegro movement of it on Radio 3 in their house at Oxford, she put her hands on his shoulders and said: "Reminds me of home."

Chaudhuri's attitude to the political events that have shaped his life is that of a mischievous Jeremiah. The three communities that mattered to him most have all been destroyed: India and his native Bengal both partitioned, the British empire dissolved. He longed to be the citizen of a united, and still culturally dominant, Ben-

## A place in history

THY HAND, GREAT  
ANARCHI INDIA  
1921-1952

By Nirad C. Chaudhuri  
The Hogarth Press, £13.95

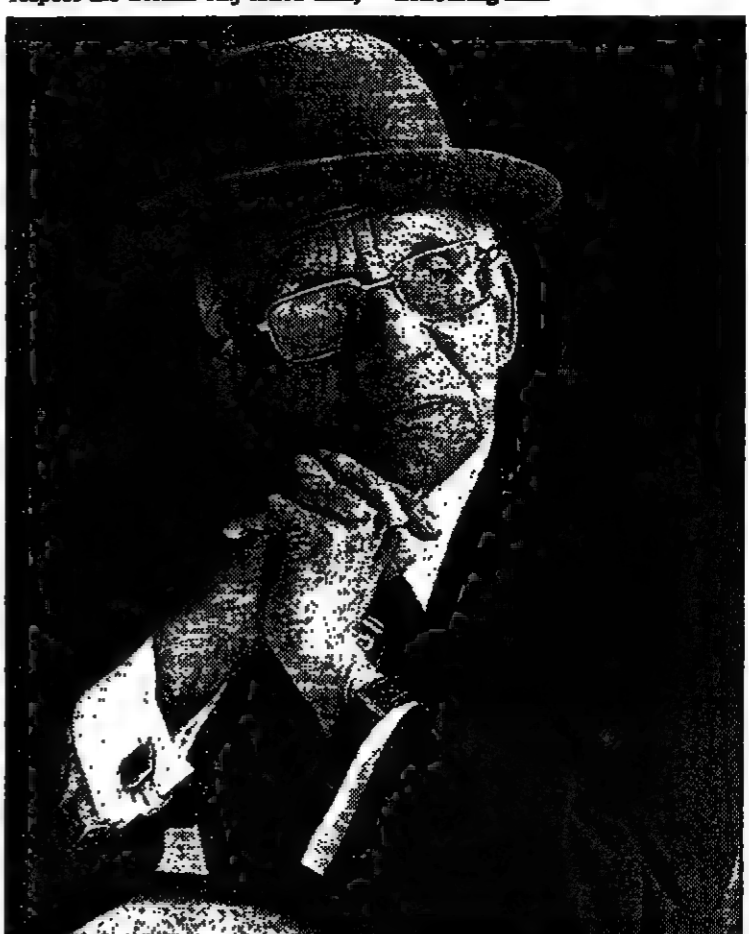
gal within a united India, while at the same time belonging on equal terms to an empire which, like the Roman, should have been non-racial and colour-blind. But in that respect the British Raj failed him,

as it did in betraying, with the leaders of Indian nationalism, the cause of Indian unity. He also laments the decline of Bengal even before it was split.

His complaints are seldom tedious, however, because he writes with unflagging liveliness and wit. Though some of his political judgements seem to me unjust, his argument as a whole cannot be ignored. It amounts to a formidable minority report (by a minority of one) on what is called the transfer of power in India, a phrase that he finds absurdly euphemistic.

He is almost as deeply versed in French as in English literature, and at one crisis in his life France did him a good turn. When his *Autobiography* appeared in India it was denounced as anti-Indian and for a time his livelihood was threatened. While British representatives on the spot held aloof, the French ambassador befriended him and gave him employment.

Perhaps France will soon follow Oxford's example in honouring him.



Thrice betrayed: the unflaggingly lively writer, Nirad C. Chaudhuri

## Holding back a sea of words

POETRY

James Wood

COLLECTED POEMS  
By Derek Walcott  
Faber, £8.99

To change your language, Derek Walcott has written, you must change your life. Yet Walcott, whose life has undergone all kinds of disruptions, has never changed his language. Over the years, his subject matter has expanded, but his language has retained its indebtedness to a long English tradition of lyric response, and to a few major influences: the Bible, Shakespeare, W. H. Auden, Robert Lowell.

Even when lamenting or angry, Walcott observes the lyrical impulse. Born on St Lucia in 1930, he has often concerned himself in his poetry with the struggle between contradictory inheritances. On the one hand, there is the life you are born with. On the other hand, there is the language: English, a rich

language certainly, but rich also in associations of and complexities with Empire. And then, concerning the life itself, Walcott has written well about the severity of exile and disappointments of homecoming.

In a poem, "Preface", written when Walcott was only 18, he found his language, his sense of place, and his controlling metaphors — in particular, the sea and the horizon.

Walcott's language is never less than a delight, and yet in one sense his collected output shows the danger of lyric poetry — the certitude of the poet's position. Even as the poet confesses to his inexperience, uncertainty or bias, Walcott still produces his lush, metaphorical language. His poetry is as fertile as that of any poet now working in the English language: "Yachts tranquil as lilies", "Men with eyes as heavy as anchors", "Flamers whose tears were marketable gum". But occasionally one longs for a lower verbal temperature. In some of his most recent poems, like those in *Midsummer* (1984) he seems to find the right balance, and perhaps political anger is the necessary motor, purging his language of its usual luxuriance.

## No place for William

When Violet Elizabeth Bott kisses William, civilization attempts to seduce the ignoble savage. But the savage proves stronger. William does not turn into a prince. Minutes later, he reverts to his natural state, face dirty, pockets happily bulging with string, bull's-eyes, and dead toads. And his philosophy, as revealed in these previously uncollected first-person

pieces (1927-33) is as predictable as the contents of his pockets. What's wrong with civilization is that it has no place for William Brown.

Other people's philosophies are clear-cut. Mr Brown is a pipe-and-slipper ironist. Mrs Brown is a sock-darning Stoic, Ethel a hedonist, and Robert a romantic. Henry is a realist, Douglas a pessimist, Ginger a Remus to William's Romulus,

FOR CHILDREN

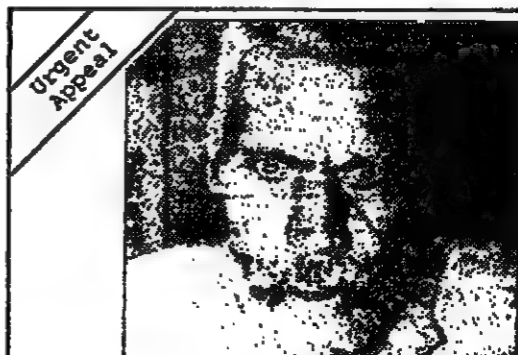
Martin Spence

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[illegible]

## THE ARTS

## Theatre's mother superior

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

When they come to write the history of the post-war London theatre, it will be seen that two people, the producer Michael Codron and the agent Peggy Ramsay, have guided it more significantly than any of its better-known leaders. Both have shown throughout their working lives about as much love of publicity as Greta Garbo. So it was a considerable achievement last night for director Rosemary Wilton to build an entire *Arena* (BBC 2) around Ramsay, with Codron as a leading witness for the defence.

We learned that the woman who mothered the careers of a hundred dramatists — from Alan Ayckbourn and Robert Bolt through to Caryl Churchill — was born in Australia about 80 years ago, the daughter of an ostrich farmer. When the trade in feathers collapsed, Ramsay took to opera singing and repertory acting. After the war she established herself in a converted brothel off St Martin's Lane as a reluctant playwright's representative. She still regards her charges as impossible children who happen to possess stunning talents.

Ramsay's critical faculties remain undimmed even after reading a dozen plays a week for half a century. "You always thought my scripts were too long," Stephen Poliakoff said fondly, thinking back 20 years or so to his first encounters with Ramsay when he was a talented schoolboy. "Still your problem," she retorted.

David Hare recalled being taken by her to see the film *Julia* and being told in the cinema that it was a script he had been offered and which Ramsay had rejected on his behalf without any consultation, because she knew it would be a dangerous interruption to his play-writing.

Ramsay's conviction that she knows her clients better than they themselves do, and is, therefore, a superior judge of their work and careers, makes her the most powerful agent in contemporary British theatre, as well as the most eccentric.

She is not known for her charm on the telephone. "Piss off, Otto," was a celebrated response to an offer from Prelinger for a script. She has fond memories of Ingeborg Bergman, a Swedish actress, who she met at a doorknob and made a play of it, but retains a healthy cynicism about most of the scripts that fall through her door.

## Of sounds and souls

RADIO  
Martin Cropper

"Hello, I'm Toyah Wilcox." The Californian inflexion seemed out of place in the confines of South Kensington's National Sound Archive, but only until her interviewee stepped up to the microphone.

His first word was "hopefully". The *Science of Sound* (Radio 4, Saturday) brought these kindred spirits together to read out prepared questions and answers that might as well have come from a brochure. Toyah was treated to a decidedly anti-climactic recording (from 1918) of howitzers doing what howitzers have to do, and any number of variegated phenomena of the audible world. Expanding her research, she then met a speak-your-textbook professor who had recorded his own (mild) tinnitus, a vague whine not unlike that of a fax machine holding its breath in anticipation of a transmission.

The whole programme, the first of six, was waiting for something — direction, perhaps. It was a question of point of view being obliterated by undifferentiated information. The human ear ("a remarkable instrument," said T. Wilcox) employs 30,000 filters to screen out aural pollution, which ought to mean curtains for Radio 2. A healthy organ can still pick up the sound of a pin dropping; when slowed down tenfold, this event mimics an unusually "bright" dinner gong. As LSD-consumers will confirm, the perception of sound is contingent on circumstance, and its interpretation is a matter of opinion.

A *Matter of the Soul* (Radio 3, Tuesday) starred Anna Massey as a sexually frustrated wife reduced to perpetual unneeded monologue by her husband's infidelity and neglect. Not even his death brought release from her fretful self-examination.

As an essay in near-solipsism it persuaded one that radio drama has a role to play in introducing the listener to the loneliness of others. It is almost redundant to add that the play was written by Ingmar Bergman.

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## One last cabaret of reminiscence

Christopher Isherwood, the subject of a newly-published book of drawings, was a mischievous raconteur to the end. Brian Davis recalls his meeting with the writer

The face of the dying Christopher Isherwood — cadaverous, fearful and haunted — stares mesmerizingly out of the pages of Don Bachardy's newly-published *Last Drawings of Christopher Isherwood* (Faber, £25). Bachardy, Isherwood's companion of 30 years, sketched the images during the last six months of the novelist's life.

There is little doubt that Isherwood looked appropriately grim during his final sessions; Bachardy never liked his subjects to smile, and Isherwood always was an excellent actor. But the 82-year-old writer was remarkably sanguine about his fate. When David Hockney was visiting him during the final weeks, Isherwood abruptly burst into tears, not in desperation, but simply because, as he put it, "I'm so happy".

By accident, I was the last journalist to interview Isherwood before his death. Not knowing of his illness, I called him when I was in Los Angeles in late 1985 — the phone book listed him under "Isherwood, Christopher" — and he immediately agreed to an interview.

When I got to his house, a glass-walled, one-storey building clinging precariously to the side of Santa Monica Canyon, bought for \$35,000 in the 1950s and now worth more than \$1 million, Isherwood took me into the living room and talked fluently and with

almost mischievous good humour about Britain, Los Angeles, his working habits and the movies. Though half-crippled by arthritis, he looked boyish, healthy and deceptively innocent.

"If there's one thing I hate," he confided, "it's writing. I'll go to almost any lengths to put it off. I think of someone I used to know years ago, look him up in a book and, by the time I've found the reference, realize that I wasn't really interested in the first place. Frankly, I'd rather call the gas company and check my bill than put pen to paper."

Isherwood's last book, *October*, a large-format limited edition, was a product of his laziness. "My publishers suggested it was about time I wrote something," he said, "but I couldn't think of anything to write. Then Don came up with the idea of my keeping a diary for a month, illustrated with his drawings of the people I mentioned. It seemed like the easiest solution."

The result is a funny and moving account of Isherwood's growing social life and his private thoughts: reminiscences,

travelogue, scenes of domestic life, and encounters recalled with his Leica-like eye. Films, actors and famous writers were never far from his diurnal thoughts; it was the glamour of Hollywood and writers such as Aldous Huxley that first drew him to Los Angeles.

His sense of humour was infectious, often sardonic. He liked to reveal that his openness had its drawbacks. "College students are always writing to me, asking questions they could find the answers to in books," he said. They always claim they've read all my works. I sympathize with their idleness, but I know it's not true. I'd like to put them against the wall, turn on the inquisitor's lights, quiz them about an obscure early essay of mine and, when they fail to get the answers right, bring on the torturers!" The thought sent him into paroxysms of giggles.

Walking on to his balcony and pointing to a mock-Tudor house recently constructed further down the canyon, he said: "The people

who live there have dogs which bark most of the night. It amuses me to stand here at three in the morning — I don't sleep much anyway — yelling obscenities at the dogs. I like the idea of a respected old novelist behaving like a lunatic."

But the anonymity of California suited him. It was the first place in which he settled down after an itinerant life, and it was here that he first found a stable relationship. It was also the place where, thanks to the film version of *Cabaret*, he first earned a good deal of money.

Contrary to rumour, he admired the movie of *Cabaret* — which, unlike the stage version, drew its inspiration directly from his Berlin stories. He thought, however, that Liza Minnelli was far too good a performer to impersonate his amateur-night Sally Bowles. He retained his fascination with Hollywood to the end, though he admitted that he had "no real talent as a screenwriter" (one of his few screenplays to be filmed untouched was *The True Story of Frankenstein*, which he co-wrote with Bachardy). Most novelists think they are too big for the cinema; Isherwood thought the opposite.

The last time I saw him, he was setting off with Bachardy for a film preview. "It's a new Jane Fonda film and, frankly, it doesn't sound very promising," he said. His face then lit up with the famous grin. "Ah, well."

From *Last Drawings of Christopher Isherwood* by Don Bachardy

## Frenzied corruption from a faraway land

THEATRE  
Jeremy KingstonThe Government Inspector  
Battersea Arts Centre

In place of the Russian dress and onion domes that usually decorate productions of Gogol's masterly comedy, Tara Arts transposes the action to a tin-pot town in India, painting the faces of the cast with the vivid curlicues and patches of Indian theatre, and peppering their talk with "shufti", "deiko" and "damsak".

But East or Far East, or anywhere in the world for that matter, where corrupt officials panic at exposure looms, the story holds its own.

What makes Jatinder Verma's version more arresting than a simple transposition is that his glibly townsfolk do not look to Delhi as the acme of sophistication, even though the setting is in some unspecified period after independence. England — or Blighty as they all call it, in tones of awe and longing — is the place from which all blessings flow.

Blighty is where the skint pen-pushing clerk has come from, on his way to visit his father in Ootie, and "Blighty!" is the first, and for some time the only, word breathed by the Mayor's dinky daughter. Sweetly played by Bilquis Omarshah, she later reveals her yearning to join England's anonymous crowds — curiously mirroring what the English are thought to feel about India — in phrases deliberately modelled on *The Three Sisters*.

Verma and his co-adaptor, Anuradha Kapur, seem to be arguing that the corruption in this small corner of India, and possibly in the larger corners, is the effect of colonialism when people project status and value on to the old colonial power.

This argument sidesteps local responsibility for corruption pretty neatly, I suggest taking it with a liberal pinch of chilli and

concentrating instead on the prancing, dancing, somersaulting energy of the performers as they dart through the familiar but rather different twists of the tale.

The action is played on a grey square with just a couple of large silver trunks as background furniture — resourcefully used, with or without their lids, to become doors, tables, hiding places and a couch for Krishna.

The high-pitched and exuberant style batters the ears in the first half, and the eyes, too.

With the arrival of Anthony Bunssee's false Inspector, the frenzy calms down a little, and while jolly details pop up at all times, they most often occur in scenes where the yellow-whiskered Mayor (Vincent Ibrahim) or his daughter are brought up against his wife, the memorably named Cuckoo Panamswaram.

The prologue assures us the play will be twice as beautiful for "its double journey from Russ and Ind". Not quite so, but still a ripe and exotic evening.

## An open heart calls for the doctor

Benedict Nightingale

Someone Like You  
Strand Theatre

If it were enough to have a well-meaning heart, and wear it on the sleeve, this show would be irresistibly enjoyable. Instead, it is a spectacular demonstration of a primary law of theatrical physics, which is that musicals tend to gravitate towards what has been tried, tested, and found terribly wanting.

The talent involved is not negligible. Robin Midgley directed and collaborated on the book with Fay Weldon, who is, presumably, responsible for giving this "musical love story" a feminist slant. Penula Clark has not only written the songs, but plays the lead, in each case showing a taste for the throbbing, palpating and defiantly uplifting.

The scene is a shattered house,

Anthony Bunssee and Bilquis Omarshah in *The Government Inspector*

now a military hospital, in the American Civil War. Enter Miss Clark, not merely a nurse, but the Florence Nightingale of the *Gone with the Wind* circuit. She proves her credentials by pluckily disarming a frenzied alcoholic. Then she sings a song about "picking up the pieces, getting it together," upon which half the cast, whose usual function is to lounge about providing rural colour, start energetically patching walls and roofs. She then launches into the evening's main business, which is falling for a doctor called Major — or (it was hard to be sure) a major called Doctor.

This is a problem, for she is married to a missing preacher called Kane and the doctor is engaged to a girl called Susannah, and they are too high-minded to betray either. Indeed, Dave Willens's Major might be personally responsible for our own NHS, so relentlessly stricken and decent does he look throughout the show.

Enter Kane, no longer a preacher, but a profiteering scumbag with a snake-oil salesman's chuckle and typhus-ridden blankets to unload on Major Doctor. Even more conveniently, he turns out to have been a bigamist, leaving no obstacle to a Clark-Willens wedding except Susannah. She duly behaves with entirely unmotivated helpfulness: first submitting to Kane's evil advances, rejecting him when he bad-mouths the dignified black she herself had previously been happy to insult, then deciding to go away and make a serious contribution to society. Discovering the best in yourself and fulfilling it is the show's credo, and it is conveyed with awesome fervour.

If there is such a thing as a sincere cliché, the musical seems addicted to it. The only consolation, I fear, is the thrust and drive of Penula Clark's voice as it swoops across the octaves.

## Lively identity crisis

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

LS/Knussen

Queen Elizabeth Hall

The third and last of the London Sinfonietta's British evenings with Oliver Knussen was another treat, not least because it brought us rare, major works of the early 1970s by both Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies, works that we can now see to have marked crucial moments in their careers.

Davies' "masque", *Blind Man's Buff*, is not only the baldest statement of his identity crisis, but also the piece in which he starts to move from the relentless self-searching of his late-1960s music towards the cool jocularity of *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame*. It is, for that reason, a hard piece to place, but this performance held persistent interest in the liveliness of the instrumental playing, and also in the astonishingly pure beauty and exactness of Lisa Saffer, the soprano soloist.

The mezzo was Mary King, whose greater triumph was her singing of Birtwistle's *Meridian* with all the proper violent passion.

Noel Goodwin

Gloriae Dei Cantores  
St John's

Gregorian chant in its purest form has the character of unassailable virtue, but is apt to sound compromised when extended in another direction, as the American composer Gerald Near has in his *Resurrexi*. This was premiered by the 40 voices of Gloriae Dei Cantores, a mixed choir from the Massachusetts town of Orleans which will soon visit Prague, Moscow and Leningrad.

In an "ecumenical" programme, the new work (35 minutes long) takes chant-themes of Easter to Pentecost, and adapts them to a Latin text of the Resurrection, each of four sections proceeding by antiphon and

There was something raw and immediate here, as if in folk singing, but over a wide-flung range of vocal resources. And the slow-growing vehemence and ravishing imagery of the surrounding score — for an ensemble of wind instruments and percussion with echoing women singers and an interlocking couple of soloists in horn and cello — were magnificently laid out. The instrumental dialogue, splendidly played by Michael Thompson and Christopher van Kampen, gyrated around the vocal monologue.

Peter Hall once aptly described Birtwistle's music as "male", but *Meridian* is his most female work: a bringing to birth in its movement from soft, but urgent, pulsations to full shrieks, a piece which draws out from the lute and rose of its Wyatt and Logue poems a picture of receptive, but active, sexuality, and a work, too, of reverberating, womb-like enclosure.

There were also more recent works: Colin Matthews's *Two-Part Invention*, bounding up to, and then exploding through, the driven lyricism of Van Kampen's amplified cello, and Simon Holt's *Capriccio spettrale*, a piece of unerring acuteness and enterprise.

recitative to a supplicatory motel. Though there is evident facility in the working, it is more pastiche than inventive vocal music, restricting itself to bland verbalization, except when adorned by the Byzantine effect of celebratory handbells during the opening and closing "Alleluias". The singing had secure pitch and homogenous tone moulded into direct expression by the conductor, Elizabeth Patterson.

At the outset, a Mass by Lassus sounded unduly stolid, but the voices were more flexible in Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary*, especially in the chromatically intense writing of "In the midst of life" and with exemplary clarity in the second setting of "Thou Knowest, Lord".

The suite was dignified by the London-based quintet of "His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts" for the instrumental interludes.

## Controversy stalks a Morris dancer

Despised in Europe,  
loved in America —  
Mark Morris talks  
to Debra Craine



Choreographer Mark Morris: "I'm very classical, very old-fashioned"

Mark Morris attracts superlatives the way honey attracts bees. He is, some say, the most exciting choreographer alive today, the greatest dance-maker of the post-Balanchine generation. Or, according to Arlene Croce of *The New Yorker*, "his generation's one and only".

He is also controversial. In Brussels, where the 33-year-old American has been based for the past two years, his work is booed, critics find him loathsome and headlines scream "Mark Morris Go Home".

Who is this choreographer who can arouse such passions? He looks like a rock star, drinks beer like a tiger and talks like a hippie throwback to the 1960s. He is considered an *enfant terrible* in Europe, treated practically as a god in America, but is virtually unknown in Britain. Apart from two small-scale appearances at London's Dance Umbrella festival in the mid-Eighties, his company has never performed here.

Without travelling to Brussels, the nearest you can get to Mark Morris is watching tomorrow's *South Bank Show*. Until you see his work it is difficult to imagine what the fuss is about. But even the dance excerpts in this documentary provide glimpses of his astonishing musicality, range and

After a brief career with several modern dance companies in the United States, Morris set up his own at the age of 23 and quickly built a reputation as a choreographer with new ideas and a respect for tradition. He loves Balanchine — although he is sorry to see that "his dances are rotting away" — and he admires Merce Cunningham.

Morris borrows movement ideas from everywhere, including non-dance sources, but somehow makes them look original. Like his choice of music, his choice of subjects is catholic, ranging from love to spiritual matters, surimase, vampires and soap powders.

He is not afraid to dance with a paper bag on his head or have his dancers perform in the nude, but he denies his work is flamboyant. "I'm very classical, very old-fashioned. The people who hate my work in the States hate it because it seems retro to them."

The move to the Monnaie allowed Morris to broaden his creativity and mount large-scale works like the monumental *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso ed Il Moderato*, which combines pastoral odes by Milton with music by Handel and is regarded as one of the major dance works of the decade.

His choreographed version of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* — in which he perversely danced the female lead — infuriated the Belgian critics who found its gender-bending and auto-criticism offensive.

● The South Bank Show is broadcast tomorrow at 10.40pm (ITV)

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## GARDENING

Why continue robbing the wetlands when peat is not the most efficient compost? Francesca Greenoak reports

The mild days of the past week have been accompanied by chilly nights, as I realized when I saw that the yellow centres of the wild strawberry flowers had turned black and infertile. The chill was not so great as to damage the profusion of spring flowers, but enough to cause the wary gardener to pause before sowing seeds out of doors.

The impulse to sow that comes upon every gardener when spring is in the air can be satisfied by sowing in seed trays and nursing the seedlings indoors until the weather is mild enough for them to be planted outside. In fact, many gardeners, not only those in cold areas, prefer to start their plants off in seed trays, thus avoiding slug damage and uneven germination due to fluctuations in temperature.

With the awakening of environmental consciences filling seed trays and containers with commercial peat composts has begun to be questioned. Taking a wider perspective, there is no point in making a garden fertile at the expense of depleting natural habitats elsewhere. It has become obvious that the world's wetlands, a unique and dwindling habitat supporting a specialized range of plants and wildlife, cannot stand the extra threat posed by the continuous mechanical extraction of peat. However, up until now conservationists and environmentalists have failed to convince the seed compost companies of the necessity of providing an alternative base medium.

We seem to have become addicted to peat as a seed and potting compost. Even less sensibly, it is used in huge quantities as a soil improver which achieves short-term and not totally successful results. Peat contracts rapidly, adds no virtue to the soil and needs to be renewed every three to four months. As soil improvers home-made compost and composted bark are much more effective.

The peat fixation occurred because it was so convenient for the horticultural trade: its low nutrient content is an asset for large-scale growing, it is lightweight and (in financial terms) cheap. With the increase in container-grown plants it was used more and more in preference to sterilized John Innes soil-based loam composts. The concerns of the professional grower with thousands of seedlings or cuttings are not necessarily those of the domestic gardener, and we may have been persuaded into buying peat products unnecessarily.

All my early gardening was done in blissful ignorance of commercial products. I simply used garden soil, not even sieving it for cuttings and potting. I have to admit that no dire diseases and plagues befell my



CLARE ROBERTS

## For peat's sake

plants, in fact they prospered; yet, as time went on, I fell in with the general trend and have dutifully bought commercial seed and potting composts.

Every year for the past four years compost manufacturers have told me they have had no plans to discontinue or decrease the peat content of their products, but recently I have encountered new developments which will, I hope, eventually halt the large-scale extraction from wetlands. Even better news is that the proposed alternatives are produced from recycled waste products.

I recently visited Mrs Catherine Dawson, technical director of Cambark, at its Cambridgeshire headquarters. I had used samples of its bark and peat composts and was keen to learn about further developments. Such bark mixtures have been used in the trade for a decade or more and are well thought of by nurserymen. The experimental research station at Efford has shown distinct advantages over peat, especially with respect to rooting cuttings.

Mrs Dawson has a keen interest in her job but emphasizes that as a scientist she promotes Cambark

products "because they do a good job, not because they are a peat alternative". In fact the bark/peat compost proportions are 70 per cent peat and 30 per cent processed bark. However, there are plans at Cambark to use recycled municipal wastes from a research and development company called the Soil Concern (part of an organization called Secondary Resources). In what amounts to a sophisticated composting operation, the Soil Concern removes dangerous elements from municipal waste (some for further recycling) and converts the rest into sterile compost.

Another well-advanced initiative, being developed by Hensby Biotech, involves the production of a sterilized sewage and straw compost, a process which disposes of two major pollutants at once, turning them into earth-friendly products which are good growing materials. This product is being investigated by Cambark. "The 100 per cent organic compost which is peat free is not far off," Mrs Dawson says.

Until the totally recycled growing compost appears on the market we must look at the current options. There is, of course, John Innes loam, which works perfectly well, although it is not multi-purpose. You have to buy separate formulations for seeds and potting, and it is avoided by organic gardeners because of its synthetic chemical fertilizer content.

The Cambark Multi-purpose, if mixed with 2oz/60g of blood, fish and bone, 1oz/30g of Dolomite lime or calcified seaweed per 2gal/9l bucket of compost, makes a superior growing medium. (Non-organic gardeners can add synthetic preparations according to the manufacturer's instructions.)

Another product, Stimpro Organic Multi-purpose Compost, contains a significant (75 per cent) proportion of peat, and is combined with cow slurry, one of the most pernicious pollutants. Carefully composted in huge heaps on a large farm in Essex belonging to Lord Rayleigh, this compost makes a reasonable choice until peatless products appear on the market. Stimpro has no plans to diminish the peat content of its product.

The best soil improvers are designed to improve the texture of the soil and add a certain amount of fertility. They can be used to supplement home-produced compost. Humber Organics sells a wholly organic product made from composted by-products such as oil seed rape meal, castor meal and cocoa bean shells.

It is Soil Association-approved and can be obtained in some stores and through the Henry Doubleday Research Association. The National Centre for Organic Gardening (0203 303517). Cambark also makes an effective soil improver which consists of a mixture of processed bark enriched with plant nutrients.

Bark products have suffered from the stigma of being expensive, but when the long-term effect on the garden (as well as the environment) is considered, they become a much better proposition.

● Cambark products are on sale at selected garden centres and horticultural suppliers: for local stockists (and mail order) contact Mrs Catherine Dawson (0638 721100); information about Stimpro supplies (0244 390712); Humber Organic supplies (0482 20458).

## GARDEN NEWS

● *The Gardeners' World Handbook* is packed with useful information on plants, growing techniques, gardening courses, nurseries and suppliers (BBC Books, £4.99).

● *Vegetable Varieties For The Gardener*, an RHS Wisley Handbook, provides a useful review of some of the vegetable varieties commonly available (Cassell/RHS, £3.95).

● *Gardens Of England And Wales*, the 1990 handbook of the National Gardens Scheme, gives details of private gardens in all regions which are open to the public on behalf of charity (£1.50

from bookshops, £2.25 mail order from The National Gardens Scheme, Hatchlands Park, East Clendon, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7RT). *Gardens Of Scotland* is available from Scotland's Garden Scheme, 31 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL (031 229 1870) (£2 including p&p).

● Please note that the plastic basket, Le Trug, mentioned in this column on March 10, comes in one size only: £4.90 (plus £1.80 p&p) for one; £9.20 (plus £2.50 p&p) for two, mail order from The Van Cogh Chair Company, PO Box 134, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 9AZ.

## WEEKEND TIPS

● Sow salvia, nitociana and dianthus (pinks) in the greenhouse, to be planted out later.

● Begin sowing peas such as Meteor in milder regions; delay for a week or two in colder northerly regions.

● Watch out for big buds on blackcurrants - cut off and dispose of any shoots when you see them.

● Plant out early potatoes, ideally with good shoots beginning to grow on them.

● Make sure plants in conservatories and greenhouses don't dry out and scorch when the sun shines.

## OUTINGS

## Joys of motherhood

The origins of Mothering Sunday are obscure. In the ecclesiastical calendar it is known as "Laetare Sunday", a joyful day in mid-Lent when the Pope blesses the Golden Rose, mothers are "blessed" and, in ancient times, communicants visited Mother Church. In rural areas it is still sometimes called Simnel Sunday (simnel, from which "semolina" is derived, is a kind of fine flour, bread or cake made from the same). Since Victorian times Mothering Sunday has been associated with the giving of small signs of appreciation to women who have nurtured children. Latterly it has become heavily commercialized - card manufacturers and florists do a roaring trade. Modern mothers would probably agree that it's the thought that counts, but if you want to go further and treat your mother, many restaurants will be laying on special meals. Among these is the Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire (0625 527468), which includes flowers for all mothers, or the Didcot Railway Centre in Oxfordshire (0235 817200) has a special Mothering Sunday Steam Day. And Lucknam Park, near Bath (0225 743536), offers a dinner with champagne reception at which the pianist Howard Shelley plays music by Mozart, Chopin and Messiaen.

## TODAY

**HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE:** Processional race for eights rowed over the University Boat Race Course. 420 crews leave at 10-minute intervals. Race lasts about an hour-and-a-half. Mortlake-Putney. From 3pm. Free.

**STOUMBER ANTIQUES FAIR:** Worth a visit even if you are not a collector - the village is one of the prettiest in west Somerset. Buffet lunches available. Proceeds to the annual Music Festival. The Village Hall, Stoumber, Somerset. 10am-4pm.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR:** More than 100 stalls selling a wide range of craft items. The Assembly Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £1, accompanied child under 14 free.

**NATIONAL STEAMBOAT SHOW:** Powered model boats and launches plus two boats in full steam. Also preservation societies and trade stands. Model railway rides for children. Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex (01-688 4757). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adult £1.80, child, senior citizen 90p. Family ticket - two adults and up to three children - £2.75.

**CRAFT IN ACTION:** Crafts for sale, demonstrations of skills, deer park and National Trust shop open. Dunham Massey Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm.

**SUSSEX CRAFT SHOW:** 120 exhibitors, demonstrations, full refreshments throughout. Leisure Centre, Haslett Avenue, Crawley, Sussex. Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm.

**SOUTH-EASTERN INDOOR SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Equestrians compete for titles culminating in the championships tomorrow. Towarders Equestrian Centre, Braintree, Essex. Further information (0376 28602). Today, tomorrow, from 9am. Admission free.

**MAP AND COMPASS COURSE:** An opportunity for walkers to discover how easy it is to find their way around the countryside. Booking is essential - but there is another opportunity next Saturday. Margam Park, West Glamorgan. Meet main car-park 11.30am. Course map and information (0638 881635).

## TOMORROW

**SOTHEBY'S RENAISSANCE PREVIEW:** An opportunity to see one of Renai's most famous images, *Au Moulin de la Galette*, estimated to fetch between £23 and £29 million when it is sold in New York on May 16. Wilson Gallery, Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1. Today noon-4pm; Mon, Tue, Wed 9am-4.30pm.

**WOODLAND WONDERS:** A six-mile guided walk looking at woods in spring. Cuthbert, Colasett, two miles north-east of Danby Dale, Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire. Meet 11am.

**CURIOSER AND CURIOSER:** Last of the spring season's children's story tours which explore the strange tales associated with certain of the museum's collections.

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7. Further information (01-838 8838). 3pm and 4.30pm. Free. Meet Cromwell Road entrance foyer.

Judy Froshaug

## HOME &amp; GARDENS

## CHRISTMAS AND LENTEN ROSES

Six plants for only £12.95

The Christmas and Lenten roses, as *Hebeborus niger* and *orientalis* are commonly called, are a joy to the winter and early spring garden. The pure-white bowl-shaped flowers of *Hebeborus niger* - among the first to flower, growing up to 12" - can be cut and brought indoors during December and January. The beautiful purple, mauve-pink or white flowers of *Hebeborus orientalis* bloom from late January to March, to a height of 18". *Hebeborus* conicus has masses of 24", cup-shaped, yellowish-green flowers and thick, leathery leaves. Most *Hebeborus* are evergreen herbaceous plants, best left undisturbed in shady parts of the garden where they can grow into large clumps. They are particularly striking when planted amongst *Snowdrops* and *Cyclamen* - all three will hang their heads in severe frost and spring upright again as the weather thaws.

We offer here two each of the above *Hebeborus*, making a total of six plants in all, separately packed and labeled. Offer price £12.95.

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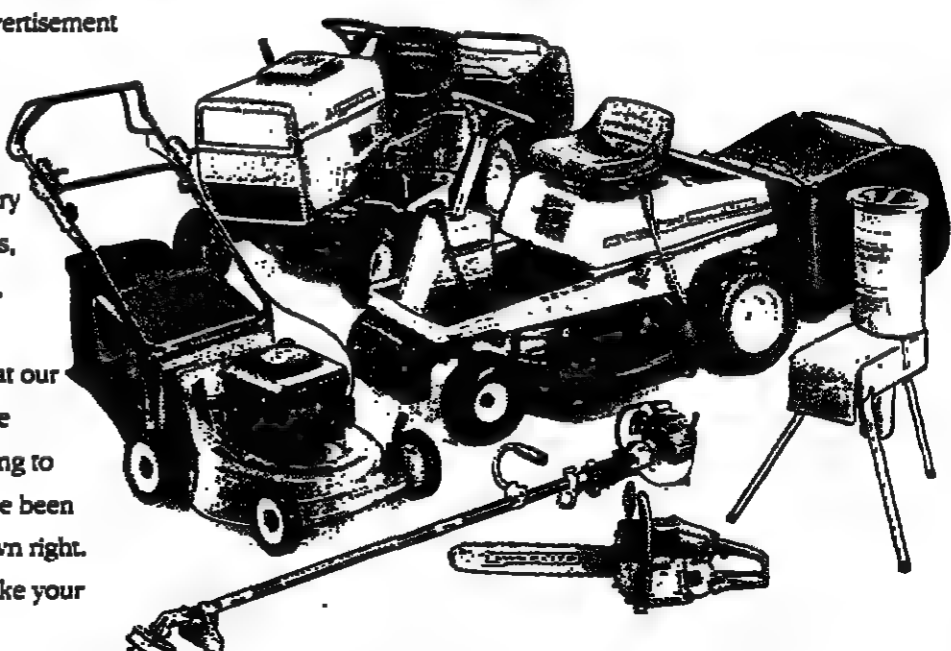
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## SHOPPING

# Phoney boxes

A slice of British tradition is being re-connected to the Nineties, says Nicole Swengley

Anyone mourning the phasing out of Britain's traditional red telephone kiosks will be happy to know that they can buy one of their own. But what, you may ask, would one do with a ton of old Post Office memorabilia? The answer, says Willy White, an entrepreneur, is to turn it into a drinks cabinet, or an aquarium. But he is open to other ideas for using the 1,500 kiosks he has bought from British Telecom.

A shower-room might be a refreshing idea, he thinks, or a library. Used as a greenhouse a kiosk would make a talking point among the neighbours.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who designed the original version in 1924, is probably turning in his grave at such sacrilege. But the cast-iron kiosk had a style of its own, so it seems only natural that it should be customized to express its new owners' interests.

Mr White, who undertakes light engineering, painting and demolition jobs, lives on a farm in Essex, which provides the space needed to store his rows of red boxes. His love affair with kiosks began two years ago when he was contracted to remove all the old boxes in East Anglia. Since then, he says, the conservationists have fought back and only half the original number of kiosks given the death sentence in 1985 have disappeared from the landscape.

The new BT kiosks, with their stainless steel and tinted glass, may be much easier to maintain, but the aesthetics are just not the same. So all round the country red telephone boxes are being "listed" as historic monuments to ensure their survival, in particular the slightly larger K2 London version. "I love everything about them: their shape, colour, style," Mr

White says. "So I bought up a whole lot intending to restore them. Then I thought it would be fun to adapt them to other uses."

He plans to revamp boxes into washing machines and tumble driers, or turn them into self-contained cooking hobs complete with extractor fans. Birdcages, fridge/freezers, ice-makers, coffee machines and saunas may seem like fantasies at this stage, but he has already made one transatlantic flight with a drinks cabinet phone box, which he installed at the New England Carousel Museum in Connecticut. And he has sold one to Chas (of entertainers Chas and Dave) in off-the-street condition, vandalism and all.

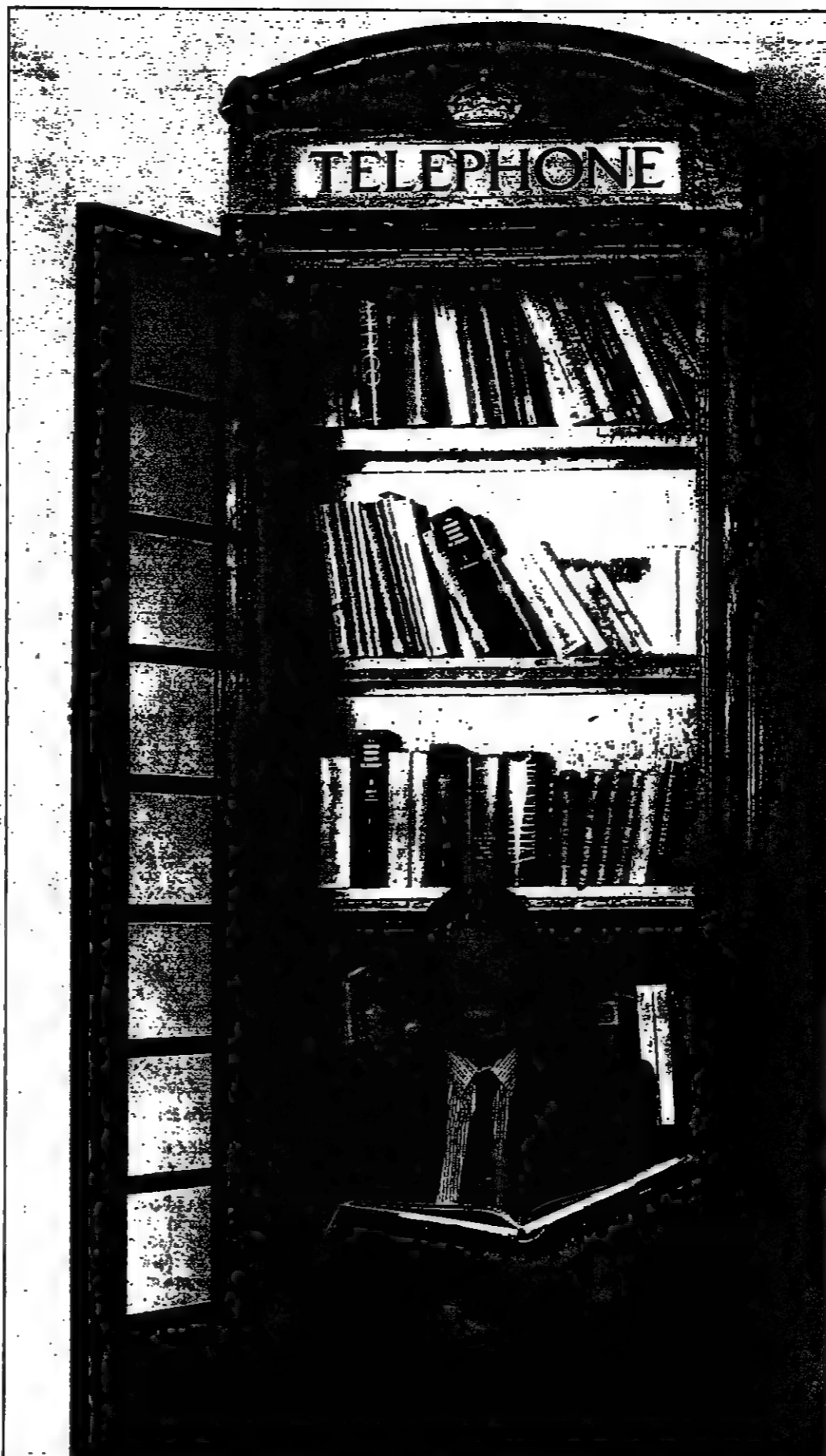
Mr White will install an original Bakelite phone with a memory-jerking button A and B operation in his refurbished boxes. There is no regulation against using these as working telephones once the wiring has been updated, so long as the royal crown at the top of the kiosk is covered.

"British Telecom has cottoned on to the idea that the public does not want part of its heritage to vanish," he says. "So it is now selling off some boxes by auction. I reckon that in two years' time all the available boxes that are not listed will have been sold."

Buying a slice of British tradition is not cheap. The basic boxes cost from £300, restored boxes £850. Those refurbished as a library cost £1,500, a shower-room £2,000, and an aquarium £7,000. The drinks cabinet kiosk comes at £3,500 with a free bottle of champagne. All prices plus VAT.

• Willy White, Fyfield Hall, Fyfield, Essex CM3 0SA (0277 85495).

• Requiem for a Red Box, a pictorial account of the decline of the red telephone box, compiled by John Timpon (Pyramid Books, £12.95).



Smart operator: Willy White, an Essex entrepreneur, is turning his 1,500 red telephone boxes into libraries, aquariums, shower-rooms and drinks cabinets — at up to £3,500 a time



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THE TIMES



## THE WEEK AHEAD

## CINEMA

**A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (18):** Erotic tale of voyeurism and sexual failure — one of Krzysztof Kieslowski's powerful cycle inspired by the Ten Commandments. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). From Fri.

**DUST IN THE WIND:** Hou Hsiao-hsien's affectionate drama about the tribulations of teenage friends forced to come to the big city; made in 1986. ICA Cinema (01-830 3647). From Fri.

**THE CITADEL:** Grimly humorous and poignant tale of a young Arab villager forced to marry; written and directed by Mohamed Choukri. Metro (01-437 0757). From Fri.

## CONCERTS



Cellist supremo Heinrich Schiff

**SCHIFF SINFONIA:** The cellist Heinrich Schiff, who is to take over as artistic director of the Northern Sinfonia, conducts and performs Vivaldi with the City of London Sinfonia. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Today.

**SACRED, PROFANE:** The Nash Ensemble with Debussy's *Dance Sacree* at Dance Profane. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (01-835 2141). Today.

**ROCCO TCHAIKOVSKY:** Series devoted to the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies starts with Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. Paul Daniel conducts the RFO. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tues.

**EGMONT AND EMPEROR:** The RFO again, conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin with works including Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, and his *Piano Concerto No 5 'Emperor'*. Fairfield Hall, Croydon (01-886 9291, cc 01-880 5955). Wed.

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** *Die Meistersinger*, in John Cox's production, returns to Covent Garden conducted by Christoph von Dohnanyi. Thurs. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068).

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** Prokofiev's *The Gambler* back in David Pountney's gripping production. Thurs and Sat Mar 31. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3161).

**SCOTTISH OPERA:** Its powerful Stravinsky and Bartok double bill, *Oedipus Rex* and *Bluebeard's Castle* on Wed and Fri; also new production of *La forza del destino*, tonight and Sat Mar 31. Theatre Royal, Newcastle (091 232 2061).

**WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:** New but traditional production of *Der Rosenkavalier* by Wolfgang Weber. Orchestraly strong. Wed and Sat Mar 31. Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 229771).

## THEATRE

**AMINGDON SQUARE:** Shared Experience/Soho Poly production of Maria Irene Fornes' play, with Philip Voss, Annabelle Apsion and Pearsa Quigley. Cottesloe, Royal National Theatre, SE1 (01-928 2252). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri. 19 parts only.

**ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL:** RSC transfer Barry Kyle's production, from Stratford 1989. Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Previews from tonight. Opens Fri. In repertory.

**RESIDE HERSELF:** New Sarah Daniels play about three women of differing education and class. Royal Court, London SW1 (01-730 1745). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 4.

**COTTON PATCH GOSPEL:** New York cast in a musical satire by the late Harry Chapin, based on the gospels of Matthew and John. Westminster Theatre, London SW1 (01-834 0283). Previews from Tues. Opens Fri.

**EDEN:** Steve Carter's tale of frustrated love in 1920s New York between a West Indian girl and a Southern US black boy. Riverside Studio One London W6 (01-748 3354). Previews from Fri. Opens Apr 2.

**LOOK LOOK:** New Michael Frayn play about the theatre audience. Mike Ockrent directs Stephen Fry, Robin Bailey, Margaret Courtenay, Gabrielle Drake, Serena Gordon. Aldwych, London WC2 (01-836 6404). Previews from Fri. Opens Apr 17.

**MARYA:** Christopher Hampton's adaptation of the 1935 Isaac Babel play about the Russian Revolution. With Geoffrey Bayldon, Julie Legrand, Sylvester Le Touzel, Robert Demagor, Allan Corduner. Old Vic, London SE1 (01-928 7616). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 3.

**MOONSHINERS:** James Pettifer's study of the early days of Bing Crosby. Starring Johnny Myers. Palace, Westfield-on-Sea, Essex (0702 342554). Opens Thurs.

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE:** Paul Nicholas and Bonnie Langford in the New York Shakespearian Company version of G & S. Palladium, London W1 (01-437 7373). Previews tonight. Mon. Opens Tues.

**THE LAST DAYS OF DON JUAN:** Nick Dear adaptation of Tirso de Molina's 17th century original. With Linus Roache in central role, directed by Danny Boyle. Swan Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 5.

**VOLPONE:** With Ian McDiarmid and Denise Lawson, directed by Nicholas Hytner. Almeida, London N1 (01-359 4404). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 3.



Giving their all: (left to right) Ben Arthur, Angela Lansbury, Julia McKenzie, with David Kernan, centre

Organizer David Kernan is pictured surrounded by some of the distinguished television and theatre performers who are giving their services to a fund-raising gala on Sunday evening at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Ben Arthur from *The Golden Girls*, Angela Lansbury and Julia McKenzie will be joined by many others, including Stephen Sondheim, Jill Bennett, Maria Aitken, Ian McKellen, Petula Clark, Millicent Martin, Maureen Lipman, Jill Gascoine, Josephine Blake, Tony Britton, Christopher Cazenove, Michael Cashman, Bonnie Langford, Maria Friedman, Joaquin Phoenix, Barbara Windsor, Mark Wynter and journalist Jack Tinker, in a show paying tribute to the late Ray Cook, who was

for 25 years among the leading musical directors in the West End. Songs and routines from some of the shows he worked on, such as *A Chorus Line*, *The King and I*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret* and *Hello Dolly!* will be featured. Crusaid, the national Aids fund-raising charity, benefits from the occasion, which will also launch "West End Cares", an initiative to produce shows and one-off performances on a regular basis. All profits will go to Aids charities via Crusaid, thus building on the considerable success which similar occasions, such as Kernan's *Sundays at the Playhouse*, have achieved in the past few years. Shaftesbury Theatre, London WC2 (01-379 3399). Sunday. Tony Patrick

## GALLERIES

**JOHN KEANE:** A series of works, inspired by "the Troubles" in Ulster, by a seductively fluent, brilliant painter who resists slogans and is one of few visual artists who can be considered an insightful interpreter of modern history. A show to see. Flowers East, London E8 (01-985 3333). Now on.

**EMRYS WILLIAMS:** Bleak, convincingly expressionistic pictures of figures braving windy promenades on the North Wales coast. Library Arts Centre, Wrexham (0578 261832). From Fri.

**JOHN CHAMBERLAIN:** Pleased by the leading American abstract expressionist sculptor whose works look disarmingly like wreckage from a car accident. Waddington Galleries, London W1 (01-437 8511). From Wed.

**ART/LONDON 90:** Some 120 galleries from 14 countries get together for an annual four-day jamboree with lectures, the full spectrum of art work and, if you look like a buyer, some word-perfect, hyperbolic sales patter. Olympia, London W8 (01-486 1951). From Thurs.

**IVON MITCHENS (1893-1979):** Selection of 45 landscapes of the same Sussex locations by a great artist keenly aware of minute seasonal and atmospheric changes. York City Art Gallery (0904 623839). From today.

**PAINTERS AND POETS IN PRINTS:** A show about artists' books, not monographs but artworks in book form, which, since 1970, have become a growth industry with everyone of any repute trying the new genre for size. Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle (061 232 7734). From Fri.

**WILLIAM BURROUGHS AND KEITH HARING:** Apocalypse and The Valley, two collaborations between Burroughs, the novelist, cartoonist and sometimes painter and collageist, and a briefly fashionable 1980s graffiti artist who died last month. The October Gallery, London (01-242 7367). From Thurs.

**PAINTING IN FOCUS:** A recent acquisition, Winter Landscape by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840), is placed under the microscope of scholarly scrutiny and compared with other versions of the same subject. The National Gallery, London WC2 (01-693 3321). From Wed.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES:** The reopening of this museum's renovated Old Master galleries, the first stage in a complete refurbishment programme. National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (0222 387951). From Wed.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**MAGNUM:** Zaida Cheate continues the Magnum theme in London this month by concentrating on the agency's founder members, George Rodger, Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, David Seymour, and William Vandivert. A selection of very well-known pictures. All prints for sale — prices from £350 for Rodger's beautiful *Westers to £1,500 for Cartier-Bresson's famous *Plaque on the Banks of the Maine*. Also some Vandivert pictures of the London Blitz which have never been exhibited before. Zaida Cheate, London WC2 (01-886 0505). From Wed.*

**CAUTIONARY TALES:** Scottish photographer Andy Wiener's constructed narratives — colour photographs in sets which tell a story and which explore society's tendency to stereotype individuals. Extensive use is made of life-size masks to obscure an individual's identity. Stills Gallery, Edinburgh (031 6571140). From Fri.

## DANCE

**LONDON CITY BALLET:** André Prokofiev's dramatic ballet based on Dumas and Verdi opens a brief London visit (Mon-Thurs), followed by a programme ranging from comedy in *Graduation* to the drama in *Transfigured Night* and powerful dancing in *Three Dances to Japanese Music* (Fri and Sat Mar 31). Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

**ROYAL BALLET:** The season resumes with *The Prince of the Pagodas*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068). Wed, Fri and Sat Mar 31.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET:** GALA: Many guest stars make brief appearances. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212 and 531 4820). Tues.

**BOLSHOI STARS:** A touring group headed by Tatiana Bessmertnova will give a programme of short pieces. Theatre Royal, Norwich (0603-628205). Tues-Sat Mar 31.

## ROCK

**JOHN MARTYN:** Bombastic old Glaswegian folkie who has embraced electric rock'n'roll. Shaw Theatre, London NW1 (01-388 1394). Tues for 11 nights.

**JOHNNY CASE:** Dependable old trouper celebrating his 35th anniversary in the music business. Somersworth World, Minehead (0800 222555) today; Orchard, Dartford (0322 343333) Mon (two shows).

**GRACE JONES:** Extrovert slave to the rhythm whose fortunes have waxed and waned considerably since her last British dates, the notorious "one man show" of eight years ago. Hummingbird, Birmingham (021 2584236) Sun; then Rock City, Nottingham; Bristol Academy, London.

**LUTHER VANDROSS:** Soul smoothie; impeccably stylish and immensely popular performer, even if it is impossible to hum any of his hits. Wembley Arena (01-902 1234) Today, tomorrow, Tues, Wed & Fri.

## OUTINGS

National Museum of Photography, Film, and Television, Bradford, (0274 727488). Opens Tues.

**THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR:** More than 500 representatives of the publishing world. Primarily for trade, but with limited public access. Olympia 2, (01-803 3344). London W14. Mon, Tues, Wed.

**DOCKYARD EXHIBITION:** Sculpture and fine art paintings by the West End Studio Group. House Carpenters Gallery, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham (0634 812551). Opens Wed.

**BRITISH INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUES FAIR:** Quality antiques at 124 stands. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 7904141). Opens Thurs.

**SPRINGFIELD GARDENS SEASON:** Magnificent 25-acre landscaped garden. Springfield Horticultural Society, Spalding, Lincolnshire (0775 724843). Opens Fri.



Puppet fame at last: Miss Piggy

**MUPPETS, MONSTERS, AND MAGIC, AND THE NEW IMAX:** Exhibition devoted to the world's most famous puppets; plus the secrets of special effects and the new IMAX (large-format) film. *The Limit*, exploring the human body.

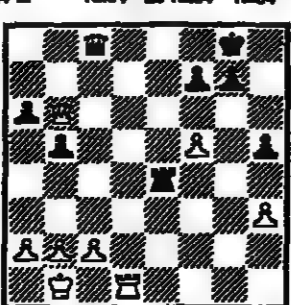
## CHESS

The Reykjavik chess summit which finished last week reconfirmed Britain's position as number two in the chess world, second only to the mighty Russians. This was an elite event for teams of 10 from the USSR, England, the US and Scandinavia. The final result was nailbitingly close, with the English team (once again generously supported by merchant bankers Duncan Lawrie) frustratingly close to the gold medals.

Final scores (out of a total of 60 points possible) were USSR 31½, England 31, US 30, Scandinavia 27½. Our real achievement, though, was to inflict an historic 6-4 defeat upon the Russians in the penultimate round. This was the very first time that a British team had beaten the Soviets at senior level. Indeed, over the top seven boards of the match, England registered the overwhelming score of 5½-1½ with Nunn, Adams, Suba and King nothing up English wins. Here is one of them against the victor of this year's Hastings Premier.

White: Sergei Dolmatov; Black: Daniel King. Visa/IBM Reykjavik Summit March 14. Sicilian Defence.

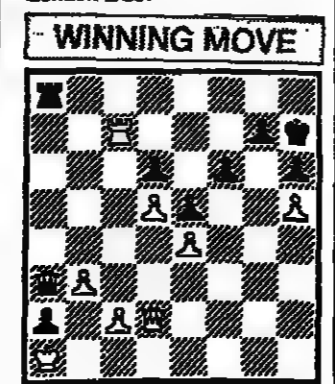
Black sacrifices a pawn to activate his position. 15 Bxd4 16 Bxh5 17 Bxh5 18 Qxd6 19 Qxd6 20 Nxd4 21 Qd5 22 Rf1 23 Rf1 24 Rf1 25 Rf1 26 Rf1 27 Rf1 28 Rf1 29 Rf1 30 Rf1 31 Rf1 32 Rf1 33 Rf1 34 Rf1 35 Rf1 36 Rf1 37 Rf1 38 Rf1 39 Rf1 40 Rf1 41 Rf1 42 Rf1 43 Rf1 44 Rf1 45 Rf1 46 Rf1 47 Rf1 48 Rf1 49 Rf1 50 Rf1 51 Rf1 52 Rf1 53 Rf1 54 Rf1 55 Rf1 56 Rf1 57 Rf1 58 Rf1 59 Rf1 60 Rf1



White must have been relying on 26 Rxd8 to win the black queen but only now does he realize that this fails to 26...Kh7 27 Rxc8 Rf1 checkmate. The upshot of this is that Black now has the initiative based on the weakness of White's pawns. 26 Rxd8 27 Rxc8 Rf1 28 Rf1 29 Rf1 30 Rf1 31 Rf1 32 Rf1 33 Rf1 34 Rf1 35 Rf1 36 Rf1 37 Rf1 38 Rf1 39 Rf1 40 Rf1 41 Rf1 42 Rf1 43 Rf1 44 Rf1 45 Rf1 46 Rf1 47 Rf1 48 Rf1 49 Rf1 50 Rf1 51 Rf1 52 Rf1 53 Rf1 54 Rf1 55 Rf1 56 Rf1 57 Rf1 58 Rf1 59 Rf1 60 Rf1

The harvest begins. Black's passed king-side pawns are a sure guarantee of the win. 35 Rf1 36 Rf1 37 Rf1 38 Rf1 39 Rf1 40 Rf1 41 Rf1 42 Rf1 43 Rf1 44 Rf1 45 Rf1 46 Rf1 47 Rf1 48 Rf1 49 Rf1 50 Rf1 51 Rf1 52 Rf1 53 Rf1 54 Rf1 55 Rf1 56 Rf1 57 Rf1 58 Rf1 59 Rf1 60 Rf1

White resigns. The Watson, Farley & Williams City of London Corporation category 11 grandmaster tournament is taking place in London from April 18. Competitors include Danny King, Murray Chandler, Michael Adams, Bent Larsen and Julian Hodgson. The first round will be played at the Guild Hall. Free tickets are available — please write to William Bale, c/o Watson, Farley & Williams, Minorities House, 2-5 Minorities, London EC3.



Black plays and wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Chess Magazine Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 6RN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Times valued personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in The Times news Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rf1 2 Qd5 3 Rf1 4 Rf1 5 Rf1 6 Rf1 7 Rf1 8 Rf1 9 Rf1 10 Rf1 11 Rf1 12 Rf1 13 Rf1 14 Rf1 15 Rf1 16 Rf1 17 Rf1 18 Rf1 19 Rf1 20 Rf1 21 Rf1 22 Rf1 23 Rf1 24 Rf1 25 Rf1 26 Rf1 27 Rf1 28 Rf1 29 Rf1 30 Rf1 31 Rf1 32 Rf1 33 Rf1 34 Rf1 35 Rf1 36 Rf1 37 Rf1 38 Rf1 39 Rf1 40 Rf1 41 Rf1 42 Rf1 43 Rf1 44 Rf1 45 Rf1 46 Rf1 47 Rf1 48 Rf1 49 Rf1 50 Rf1 51 Rf1 52 Rf1 53 Rf1 54 Rf1 55 Rf1 56 Rf1 57 Rf1 58 Rf1 59 Rf1 60 Rf1

The three winners of The Times personal chess computer are: Sarah Busby, Rosh, Cardiff; Robert J. Hulley, Croydon; and Mr J. Turner, Wetherby, Yorkshire.

Raymond Keene

## BRIDGE

The French word for deception has an extra connotation when applied to bridge, for great thinkers have developed many cunning ways of stealing tricks in the trump suit. As this suit so often plays a starring role, these are well worth studying. The general idea is that you do not easily resign yourself to losing the obvious tricks.

(1) Dummy Q-J-x-x Declarer 10-9-x-x-x-x

(2) Dummy J-x-x-x Declarer 10-8-x-x-x

In (1), the resourceful player crosses to dummy and leads the queen, hoping that East may cover with K-x, to his partner's disgust. It is no use leading low from the closed hand, for if West has K-x he will note that you have not taken a finesse and will place East with the ace. In (2), not so many players realize that it is still a bright idea to cross to dummy and lead high. Now you may crash the opponents' honours if East splits his equals with K-Q-x or plays the ace from A-Q-x. To lead the jack may cost a trick if West has all the outstanding cards, but this is unlikely. With A-K-Q-9, West would probably have doubled in a voice fit to call the cattle home across the sands of Dee, or at least would have huffed and puffed a little.

How about this combination?

(3) Dummy Q-x-x-x Declarer 10-x-x-x-x

By leading the queen from

dummy, you get your name in lights whenever East covers with K-J-x or A-J-x. It is true that leading the queen will cost if West has A-K-J, but frequently the bidding will rule this out. Again:

(4) Dummy J-x-x-x (5) Declarer K-9-8-x-x

The normal play is to lead low from dummy and put up the king. Suppose instead that you lead the jack, still intending to play the king. Now you may save a trick if East is tempted to cover with Q-10-x or A-Q-x. Leading the jack may incur partner's wrath if East happens to have the singleton queen or small card, so this is done only when there are grounds for thinking that West, rather than East, is likely to be short in the suit. The principle always is this: Consider the advantage of leading a high card through the defender who is likely to hold the majority of trumps. Here is a typical sequence where defender can readily be identified. You are South.

S W N E

10 14 27 No

Your left-hand opponent has over-called in a suit and the right-hand opponent has not supported. The chances of the second opponent having a singleton in your trump suit are now quite small. As he has not scraped up a raise, he is more likely to be short in his partner's suit than in yours. Deception based on the trump suit is not limited to the way you handle the suit itself. It can extend to the complete tactical plan.

Defenders sometimes have

little to go on and may be constrained to follow the same principle as the harassed mother-child to find out what Johnny was doing and tell him to stop. As declarer, you can profit from this tendency.

Thus, if you want the defenders to lead trumps, you pretend to be planning a cross-ruff. If you really do want to cross-ruff, you act as though such a thought had never entered your mind.

Dummy J 10 5 ♠ A 9 7 6 5 2 ♣ 9 ♢ 10 8 6 ♣ 7 3 2

Declarer K Q 9 8 6 ♠ 3 ♣ A K Q ♢ Q 7 3 2

The contract is four spades. You have only eight tricks: four trump tricks, three diamonds and a heart.

If you can discard two clubs from dummy on the top diamonds, you may be able to ruff twice, bringing the tally to ten. It will, however, be necessary to give up a club trick along the way. If you start by cashing the diamonds, the defenders will surely play two rounds of trumps when they come in with a club and you will be held to one ruff in dummy. Therefore, on winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, you should boldly lead a club from dummy and play the queen. You will be very unlucky if West returns a club. It is more likely that he will play a heart. Now your deception will have worked and you will be able to exclaim: "Vive la tromperie."

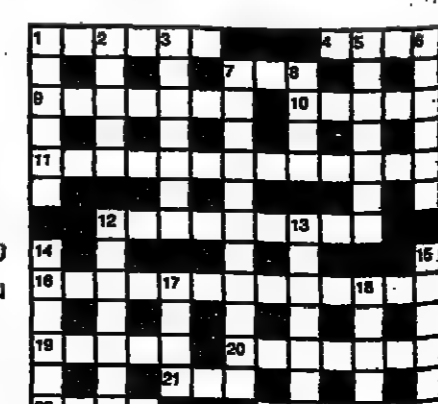
Albert Dormer

## CROSSWORD

## CONCISE NO 2135

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 29. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, March 31.

ACROSS: 1 Recurring periodically (6) 4 Snow transverse (4) 7 Evacuate (3) 9 Pick-me-up (7) 10 Scrap, jot (5) 11 Greek paradox (7,6) 12 Far-sighted (9) 16 Proliferating (2,3,6) 19 Curb (5) 20 Larger than normal (7) 21 Male offspring (3) 22 New Haven university (4) 23 Reparation (6)



DOWN: 1 Price-fixing group (6) 2 Partridge flock (5) 3 Sale document (7) 5 Curly lock of hair (7) 6 Animal fat (6) 7 Mile-deep Arizona gorge (5,6) 8 Fifth helmet (4) 12 Hazard (7) 13 Printing mistake (7) 14 Woman's younger lover (6) 15 Parliamentary break (6) 17 Costs (4) 18 Line up (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2134 ACROSS: 8 Choral 9 About 10 Log 11 Decollet 12 Spawn 14 Onusious 17 Feather 19 May 20 Swaggared 24 Gig 25 Eclat 26 Nostrum DOWN: 1 Scales 2 Borgia 3 Pandango 4 Peace offering 5 Pall 6 Soweto 7 Suras 13 Pen 15 Immodes 16 UFO 17 Feather 18 Cradle 20 Yogurt 21 Regime 23 Gate

The winners of prize concise No 2129 are: Ann Wilton, Cheshire; Walsdale, Kent; James O. Davis, Bournemouth, Dorset.

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2129 (Last Saturday's Prize Concise) ACROSS: 1 Hijack 4 Tarp 7 Coo 9 Mombasa 10 Grass 11 Unprecedented 12 Trumped up 16 Quadrilateral 19 Illum 20 Atheist 21 Far 22 Tugs 23 Adieu

DOWN: 1 Humber 2 Jam up 3 Chateau 5 Start up 6 Rapids 7 Caterpillar 8 Ope 12 Trading 13 Ditched 14 Squirt 15 Plates 17 Ramp 18 Rhine

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# West Indies scythed down

From Alan Lee  
Port of Spain  
Trinidad

English prayers were answered in Port of Spain yesterday. The coin fell for Graham Gooch, the West Indies were obliged to bat and, glory be, their three most accomplished players were out inside the first hour. Soon, it was a staggering 29 for five and then 114 for eight.

It was all proceeding so neatly to the prescribed plan that one sat in permanent fear of waking up to discover that the real match had not actually begun. The miracles of Sabina Park, when West Indies were dismissed for 164 on the opening day, suddenly seemed almost mundane.

Long before lunch, with England in heady command, Fraser and Small were operating to fields of a belligerence they cannot have contemplated when, in the first half of the winter, they surveyed their role on this tour. There were four slips, a short leg and a silly mid-off while Gooch, adrenalin flowing as never before, sought to turn the screw.

No longer did he need to convince his young charges that they were bowling first to win the game, rather than to avoid losing it. The evidence was being frantically shuffled on to the scoreboard as each West Indian trudged his sorrowful path back to the pavilion.

To say the toss was important would grossly understate the case. It was potentially the pivotal moment of this entire series. The sense of anticipation for this match did not climax at start of play but with the inspection of the coin by the captains.

It was pure theatre, Gooch, in his England blazer, had been pacing the square and perusing the matted grass of the pitch for some minutes before the smiling Desmond Haynes, captain of West Indies for the first time, joined him. Up went the coin. Gooch called heads and with a revealing skip, hastily signalled to the dressing room the news they wanted to hear.

Some grass, though not much, had been trimmed overnight but these were still conditions to make a seam bowler swoon. In the circumstances, it was no more a surprise to see England omit Hemmings from their squad than for the West Indies to leave out Lara and Baptiste.

Small and Malcolm were again given the new ball and, if the first over was uneventful, the second compensated. Malcolm required no time to loosen up; from the first ball he was a fury. Three times in the over he dropped short against Greenidge, who was plainly inclined to take him on. But the last ball climbed



Cause for celebration: Dujon is trapped leg-before and his dismissal is greeted with jubilation by Lamb, Gooch and Stewart in the Test in Trinidad

## Scoreboard

WEST INDIES: First innings

C G Greenidge c Stewart b Malcolm	5
D L Haynes c Lamb b Small	0
R B Richardson c Russell b Fraser	18
C A Best c Lamb b Fraser	1
19 J L Dujon lbw b Small	4
A L Logie not out	43
G L Hooper c Russell b Capel	0
E A Moseley c Russell b Malcolm	32
E L Ambrose c Russell b Malcolm	7
18 Dujon not out	0
Extras (b 2, nb 3)	5
Total (8 wickets)	114

C A Welsh not out

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-6, 3-22, 4-27, 5-28, 6-32, 7-40, 8-100.

ENGLAND: D A Gooch, W Lamb, A Stewart, A J Lamb, R A Small, R Bailey, J Capel, D C Russell, G A Small, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm.

dislodging the best. Richardson was drawn forward, beaten off the pitch and the contact was thin but distinct. England would have settled for this as a morning's work but they did not relent. Carlisle Best is nothing if not a fighter, as he showed when batting for three and a half hours in the second innings at Kingston, but now his concentration seemed disturbed by two blows on the left hand. The second of them left him shaking the hand in evident distress and Fraser's

next ball was the sucker punch. Best hanging out his bat and thrashing his pads in disgust as the ball looped to third slip.

One of Haynes's most interesting acts had been to promote Dujon from seven to five in the order. Dujon has felt keenly he has been wasted batting so low but he did his cause no good here. Small ducked a ball back at him and Dujon, shouldering arms, was lbw.

Twenty nine for five was too much to take in. There simply had to be a recovery of sorts and, to nobody's surprise, the originator was Logie. At Lord's, in 1988, England had briefly been rich beyond imagination with the West Indies 54 for five on the first day. Logie and Dujon corrected matters with a stand of 130. Now it was Logie and Hooper, the little hustler and the tall, haughty stroke player, who revived their crucially ill team, but it was to end at 92 when Hooper was out and followed soon after by Moseley and Ambrose.

## England show they are able to live with the pressure

Trinidad

When it comes to judging individuals, it is often a measure of a player's calibre as to how well he is able to cope with the pressures of a higher class of cricket, a quality best described as big match temperament. It is not always those with the most obvious talent who prove to be the most adept at handling the likes of one-day finals or Test match cricket - similar, I hasten to add, only in terms of pressure, not in terms of quality.

At the moment, in Trinidad, it is not so much individuals as the team to which we can currently ascribe this ability to turn on a performance when most important.

Graham Gooch was very obviously in no doubt as to his



The former England captain comments on the first day of the third Test match

intentions on winning the toss from Desmond Haynes in the latter's first Test as the West Indies captain.

The ground rules that appear to govern the preparation of the pitch in Trinidad dictate that, in order to provide a surface that has a chance of surviving five days, an extra quota of water and grass are needed at the outset, which normally means that the game does not last those five days.

But winning the toss is only

a start. England's current big match temperament came through almost immediately, helped by the fact that Greenidge pushed a ball to Devon Malcolm straight at short leg, giving England the early wicket and confidence-boosters that began their most recent assault on the West Indies batting.

Curiously enough, the lunchtime score at Queen's Park was 66 for five, identical to that at Lord's on the first morning of that Test in 1988. Then it was Gus Logie who helped repair the damage, and West Indies survived to win the match. Here, one would have to back England to retain control, with the proviso that that temperament extends to the batting as well as it has to the bowling and fielding.

## Robson ready to recall Wilkins

From Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent  
Zurich

Bobby Robson, in order to preserve his own position as England's manager, is prepared to recall the nation's most experienced outfield player for the World Cup. Ray Wilkins, who has been out of consideration for 3½ years, could be brought back into the squad for the finals.

Although he is not in the party scheduled to assemble tomorrow night for Wednesday's international against Brazil, Wilkins could yet overtake those higher in the list of choices.

If England's captain, Bryan Robson, recovers fully from his hernia operation, Wilkins is unlikely to be required in Italy. If not, then he could return to the tournament which he left in disgrace. Against Morocco, in the first round of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, he was sent off.

Aged 33 and only a few months older than Bryan Robson, Wilkins has been in prime form at Queen's Park Rangers this season. "He was playing well with Rangers in Scotland as well," Bobby Robson said here yesterday. "And I certainly have not ruled him out."

England's manager was not aware until yesterday evening that yet another of his mid-field players had withdrawn from the match against the Brazilians. As well as Bryan Robson, Webb, Rocard and Thomas, who could be out for three weeks, he is also without Hodge.

Hodge was included by Bobby Robson among the candidates who are vying for places as understudies. The others are Gascoigne, McMahon, Phelan and Cowans, who has been chosen only once in the last 2½ years. Wilkins, with 84 caps, is by far the most experienced representative and would provide leadership.

Bobby Robson reacted stoically to the news that only if England win the World Cup is his contract likely to be extended. "All I'm thinking about is the tournament," he said. "That is occupying my mind, my interest and my efforts. What happens afterwards will be decided between me and the Football Association."

"We have qualified, we are in a big field and we will give it our very best attempt. But winning the World Cup won't depend just on me but on the performance of the players. The champions will be the team which has the most world-class players and, I can tell you, I've got some of those."

## Amateurism remains the order of the day

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The portals of rugby union's amateurism quivered again yesterday but remain standing. At the end of their annual meeting in London, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) decided to extend the principle of compensation to domestic internationals, as well as tours, which comprises broken-time payments if you are English but carry little if you are Australian.

That constituted the main revision of the amateur regulations, but a working party has been established, comprising representatives from England, Ireland, Wales and New Zealand, to study the regulations as they relate to "communication for reward" (broadcasting, writing, advertising), with a brief to

report back to the board's next interim meeting, in Edinburgh in October this year.

Sir Ewart Bell, the chairman of the IRFB amateurism committee, said the board had sought compromise and consensus and were poised to determine the mechanism by which the game worldwide can be controlled. The four key issues his committee faced had been play-for-pay - which had received a "resounding no" from all areas of the game - compensation, material benefits from the game and effective control.

Bell will chair the working party whose discussions will include the possibility of officers being appointed by member unions for the uniform enforcement of regulations. But though the hopes of

## IRFB sour to Halliday

Simon Halliday, the Bath and England three-quarter, described the IRFB decision as "the judge we always knew it would be." Halliday, a stockbroker who has seldom made himself available for tours because of the pressure of business, said he was disappointed at the stance adopted by the Rugby Football Union over the question of compensation (David Hands writes).

"We're going to have a situation where some players will be more advantaged than others," he said. "There will be a free-for-all in which some people will fall foul of the rules because they are not careful and others will float them and get away with it."

"It is admirable on one level because it would be a shame to see the game disappear down the avenue of agents and the like. But the board have missed the opportunity to make *pro rata* payments for time spent away from the office and offered only peanuts."

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, who stated earlier this week his union's policy of opposition to the payment of daily allowances at home said: "The regulations as they stand are difficult to enforce and I believe there are minor abuses. But I am pleased the board restated, as expected, its dedication to keeping rugby an amateur game."

## Celtic plan repeat of fine cup form

By Roddy Forsyth

Today's league programme offers Celtic and Aberdeen the opportunity to repeat the lacerating form which each of them displayed while disposing of hapless opponents during their Scottish Cup quarter-final matches.

Aberdeen's dismemberment of Heart of Midlothian has been the occasion for considerable euphoria around Pittodrie, and it is all the more ominous for Motherwell that they must travel to that venue this afternoon with their resources greatly depleted.

Cooper and O'Neill are both injured, while Paterson is obliged to cope with a family illness, and the inventive Kirk will struggle to overcome a back injury. In contrast, Aberdeen have merely to decide whether to supplement their strength by permitting Miller to risk his vulnerable knee with a return to first team action.

Dunfermline Athletic, meanwhile, appear to be in greater peril than Motherwell. They meet Celtic for the third time in a week, having drawn with the Parkhead side in the cup at East End Park last Saturday and been demolished in the replay in Glasgow on Wednesday night.

Although they have home advantage again today, Dunfermline are acutely sensitive to the fact that only poor finishing by Celtic prevented them being dismissed from the cup at home during the first encounter.

Walker seems likely to resume in attack in place of Dziekanowski in the Celtic team. McNeill said yesterday: "I have had it in mind to make alterations in order to keep ever-ready, fresh and keep them involved, but I am now looking for our good attitude

of recent weeks to be sustained."

At Tannadice, there is a derby meeting between Dundee United and Dundee which, in circumstances that see Dundee five points adrift at the foot of the table, might suggest that the home side should not be over-burdened by problems in securing a victory.

However, Dundee have taken four points from a possible six on offer in these municipal encounters already this season, and their recent form suggests a doggedness in pursuit of their fractional chance of avoiding relegation, although their cause today is not helped by injuries to Ferguson and Bendie.

For their part, United have named an 18-strong squad, which does not include O'Neill, who has influenza.

For a team in such a commanding situation at the top of the Premier Division, Rangers have been strangely unconvincing in recent weeks. If they should fail to beat Hibernian this afternoon, they will have gone a total of six matches without a victory. McCoist and Walters are, however, close to full fitness and if both play today, the champions will have a more familiar look.

The afternoon's card is made up by St Mirren and Heart of Midlothian, a pair of sides whose encounters have sometimes been rather abrasive in the past. Today, the teams meet at Tynecastle, where St Mirren will have to do without their versatile Icelandic attacker, Torfarsen, who will be replaced by Stickroth, who is on loan from the West German Bundesliga club, Bayer Uerdingen.

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**Senna: sometimes finds strength and comfort from the Bible**

**Driving on:** Phil Exmoe, of Oxford, keeps on course on a difficult afternoon at St Andrews.

[illegible][illegible]







## CRICKET

# Optimism for best yet from English and Zimbabweans

From Richard Streeton, Harare

England A and Zimbabwe believe the third five-day international starting here today could bring the best cricket in the series. England lead 1-0 and are anxious to end their tour with a victory and there is every chance a more positive approach to their run-rate will be made to achieve this.

With another lifeless pitch certain to be provided, England know they must give themselves as much time as possible to bowl out their opponents twice. The Zimbabweans, who have had no match play since last weekend in Bulawayo, have been practising hard. They have felt spurred by their improved showing there and feel the gap between the sides has narrowed since England arrived.

England had a boost yesterday when Atherton, on his 22nd birthday, confirmed his recovery from a strained groin. Pringle, as feared, though, is out. His problem lies in the base of his back and a long rest has been advised. It is too soon to know if he will recover in time for the start of the English season next month.

Compared with the team which played in the second international at Bulawayo, England have made three changes. Two of them are based on what happened against Zimbabwe B in mid-week. Thorpe returns for Stephenson who has lost form; and Illingworth wins the slow left-arm spinner's berth from Afford and he will also shorten the tail in Pringle's absence. Watkin replaces the Essex all-rounder.

Predictably, it was decided that Lawrence could not be risked in a five-day game after his technical problems this week, which have temporarily left him short on confidence. England wanted to select Lawrence, whose pace could have been an important asset. His rhythm at practice, however, was clearly still affected by his problems against Zimbabwe B when he bowled numerous no balls and was twice warned for running on the pitch.

Zimbabwe have made one change from the side which played in the second international. Brandes, the first bowler, has recovered from back and elbow problems and returns to the attack. Grant

Flower, the young batsman with limitless patience, makes way for him.

It left Zimbabwe dangerously short of options to include only three specialist bowlers at Bulawayo and there is no question that Brandes's return should be beneficial. It's also possible that the Zimbabwean batting order will be reshuffled.

Hitherto, the first three in their order, Shah, Goodwin and Robertson, have all been strokemakers. They might now consider using Andy Flower as an opening batsman. His solid, left-handed defence has already proved useful lower down the order and he does have experience as an opener.

Meanwhile Alan Smith, the TCCB's chief executive, has confirmed that more than one Test playing country, in principle, would like to see regular A team series between countries.

**ZIMBABWE:** D L Nondzwa, A H Smith, C M Robertson, A J Pringle, TA Power, D G Gubbins, G A Pienaar, J Thorne, M P Jarvis, EA Brandes, K G Davis.  
**ENGLAND:** M J C Nicholson, D J Giddons, M A Atherton, R J Bailey, J A Shepherd, G P Thorpe, JS J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, M A Blomfield, S L Watkin, A P Lloyd, J Humpstone and J Kettle.

## Bowled over by a devotee



Master of arts: a secretary's view of her boss at work

The hair might have turned a little greyer, but the face is still as youthful, the walk as angular, the enthusiasm as infectious as ever they were when he played his last Test, 14 years ago. At the drop of a hat, Lance Gibbs will get up from his desk, pick up an autographed cricket ball which has permanent home between the telephone and the notepad in his Miami office and show you what he means.

"To bowl off spin, you have to get round here, side on and then cut across the front leg. You mustn't get too chest on." Through the open door the secretary, unaware that she has just had the batsman's eye view of the most successful spinning action in the history of Test cricket — 309 Test wickets, 1,024 first-class wickets in 24 years for West Indies, Guyana, South Australia and Warwickshire — looks bemused.

Conversation with Gibbs is punctuated by the telephone; sometimes business, sometimes cricket. "England beat the President's XI. Who took the wickets? What's going on down there?" The voice rises to a plea. "Yeah, we have a ship going down on Thursday. You want how much rice? Steve, is Richards fit? Nor Marshall? Hey, what is going on down there?"

Unfortunately, Gibbs has his schedule muddled up for this week. As regional sales manager for Crowley Caribbean Transport, he usually manages to pop in on home

Test series just to find out what really is going on down there. This week, however, he has to go to Boston and New York, which upsets him a little because Trinidad, the venue for the third Test, holds fond memories for him. His first Test wicket came in Trinidad in the second Test of the 1958 series against Pakistan.

"Wagar Hassan. Played for the turn, caught by Weekes. Playing for the turn? He wasn't the last," he laughs. And the 308th, the wicket which took him past Fred Trueman as the highest wicket-taker in Test history? "Redpath. Caught long-on. He was a good player of spin, Redpath."

The wicket effectively marked the end of an era in West Indian cricket. Then 41, Gibbs reckoned his work had been done. He bowled 50 overs in his last Test, the sixth in the disastrous series against Australia in 1975-76. To reach the record he needed over 11,000 more balls than Trueman and his spinning finger bears witness to the toil.

Long and spindly, like the legs, it has a permanent lump on the inside of the knuckle. No other spinner has that because none held the ball as Gibbs did, pressed deep into the hand with the knuckle of the index finger rubbing against the seam. Only when that got raw did he move the ball to the more orthodox position at the end of his fingers.

Today, Gibbs will join some

of his exiled countrymen in a cinema in downtown Miami to watch the Test on satellite television. But, from long experience, he feels that today could be the decisive day of the series. "You never know what's going to happen in Trinidad. It usually takes a bit of turn there. I think England have to go for a win because I don't fancy their chances in Barbados or Antigua."

But does it upset him that, whatever the result, the spinners will probably not play much of a part in it? "People say that the art of spin has died, but if you look around the world now, there are plenty of spinners coming through. In the West Indies, perhaps the generation after me suffered because they were expected to bowl like me."

At the age of 55, Gibbs still plays occasionally for charity XIs. Four high-stepping paces, bowl, turn, back to the mark. He once claims he finished an over before Wes Hall, who was bowling at the other end, had reached long leg. Tony Greig used to make him wait, tried to break up his rhythm by doing a bit of gardening.

"That made me mad. Boycott might do it too. With Boycott you had to wait, and wait and wait and wait. If you dropped short, he would be to your square on the outside. So you'd hold one back a bit. Here, like this..." And the ball disappears past the secretary again.

Andrew Longmore

## The boundaries of poverty stunt growth of a game

Paul Parker, the captain of the MCC team to Argentina, gives his impressions of the tour

After three weeks playing cricket in Buenos Aires, my thoughts on our tour cannot be divorced from my impressions of the country. Indeed, the state of Argentinian cricket could, in a simple sense, be seen as a microcosm of the plight of the whole country: the few who are wealthy enough to afford to play, the millions of those who are not, the lack of co-ordinated leadership, parochial factions, the lack of funds caused by excessive inflation.

But three weeks living in the lap of luxury at the Hurlingham Club and playing cricket in Buenos Aires does not entitle one to give a balanced appraisal of a nation.

From what little I did see, this is a land of stark contrasts: the crowded shanty towns and middle class suburbs; the barefooted child, wide-eyed, palm outstretched begging for money in the affluent city centre shopping mall; the rich Hurlingham Cricket Club member with his personal bowling machine and the young boy from Lomas not able to afford lunch on the day of a match.

Argentinian cricket is surviving but only just. The keys to its survival and ultimate regeneration are finance, leadership and a co-ordinated plan of action. How any business survives in the grip of the hyper-inflation which is suffocating the country is a mystery to me.

Even for the wealthy Argentinian businessmen accustomed to 40 years of economic and political fluctuation, the situation has become dire. While we were there, inflation was averaging 70 percent per month, petrol prices were increased overnight by 125 percent and telephone bills by up to 433 per cent.

In Rosario, there were food riots and looting of supermarkets.

The Argentinian Cricket Association (ACA) is desperately short of funds and an important part of the tour for the MCC team was attending official functions, many of which, we quickly realized, were fund-raisers. Naturally, the targeted audience were mainly affluent Anglo-Argentines.

The immediate problem for the ACA is to finance its

national side's trip to the ICC Trophy tournament in The Netherlands in June. It relies heavily on the money distributed to associate members by the International Cricket Council, whose initial payments to the ACA, eagerly awaited, will be in the region of £5,000. It is a case of living from hand to mouth.

The ideal solution, of course, would be to introduce cricket into more Spanish speaking schools through a co-ordinated programme of coaching. Too long has cricket been the domain of the rich Anglo-Argentine, too long has money been the key to who plays cricket. But to attempt to change this, even on a small scale, would require funds beyond the present sight of the ACA.

Several of the private English schools do play and coach cricket and more boys of Spanish descent are taking up the game. But the numbers of children involved are very small. The ACA has also for many years had professional cricketers from England coming out to coach in these private schools and to play in the small Buenos Aires cricket league, which comprises the four clubs, Hurlingham, Belgrano, Lomas and St Albans.

It would appear, however, that local and language difficulties have been prohibitive and that there has been no one of sufficient stature to unite the disparate forces within the ACA and introduce an organized coaching programme.

Finally, even if funds were available and such a plan implemented, it is doubtful that the Latins would embrace a game as slow as cricket. Despite the noble efforts of many of its 200 protagonists, the future for Argentinian cricket, I fear, is hardly bright, and, as with the forward will be long and difficult.

## Solid start by Taylor

Sydney (Reuters) — Mark Taylor, the Australian opening batsman, celebrated his last-minute elevation to the captaincy of New South Wales by scoring an unbeaten century on the first day of the Sheffield Shield final against Queensland yesterday.

Taylor was 107 not out at the end of play and piloted his side to 231 for four after sharing a 160-run opening partnership with Small, who made 75 before he was caught off Racheemanz.

Geoff Lawson, the state captain, had been ruled out with a shoulder injury shortly before start of play.

New South Wales, put in to bat, went to tea at 153 for no wicket, but lost four in the final session. They need only to draw

to take their fortieth Shield; Queensland must win to claim the trophy for the first time.

Border, the Australian captain, on the ground where he took 11 wickets against West Indies last season, finished with two for 27 after having Mark Waugh caught behind and trapping Bayliss leg-before.

**NEW SOUTH WALES:** First Innings  
S Small c Clifford b Racheemanz 75  
M Taylor not out 107  
T Bayliss lbw b Border 26  
W Waugh c Hewly b McDermott 8  
M Waugh c Hewly b Border 4  
P Emery not out 4  
Extras (b 5, nb 3) 8  
Total (4 wickets) 231

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-180, 2-194, 3-205, 4-220.

**BOWLING:** McDermott 25-5-56-1, Racheemanz 18-3-44-1 (1 lb), Carroll 13-3-35-0, Border 18-3-27-2, Racheemanz 7-0-33-0, Topley 7-0-24-0 (2 nb), Foley 3-1-6-0.

## CYCLING

## Boardman tries again with Texas in mind

By Peter Bryan

Christopher Boardman, a specialist climber but one who has never finished higher than third in the Porthole Grand Prix time trial around Lake Windermere, makes his fifth attempt for victory in the event tomorrow.

The twisting 25½-mile circuit has few stretches of flat and one large hill, the Devil's Gallop, that will take riders out of the saddle and leave them out of breath. The climb is a 200-yard section with a one-in-seven gradient on which the trial could be won and lost.

Boardman is using the event as final preparation for the Tour of Texas, starting next Thursday. The Windermere course, on paper, is tailor-made for him;

he is both the British 25 miles and hill climb champion.

The organizers, with a limit of 120 competitors, have had to return 87 entries. The quality of those accepted is the best in recent years. Among them are the world professional pursuit champion, Colin Sturgess, and one other professional, last year's winner, Paul Carron. Sturgess, whose place in the new Tulip-IOC team was confirmed this week, joins the squad in Belgium on Monday.

Amanda Jones, world road champion in 1982, who plans a serious comeback this season, has probably the most demoralizing starting position: she will be sent off one minute behind Boardman.



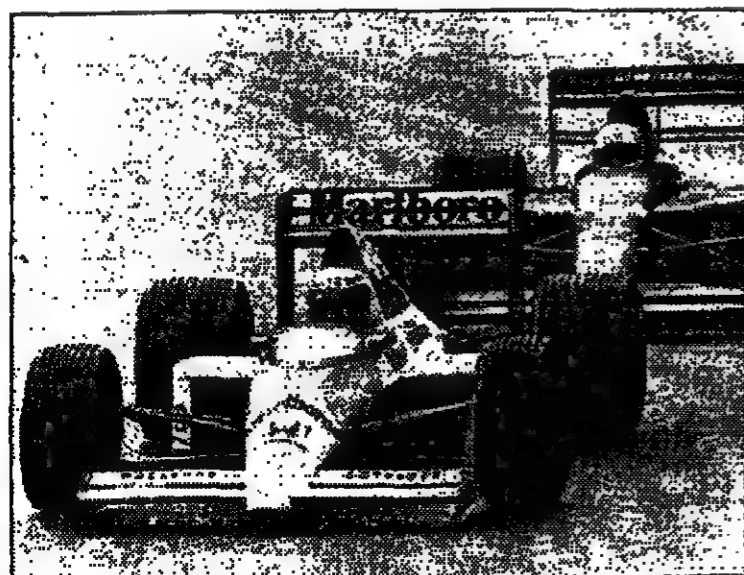
## LIVE from Wembley The Zenith Cup Final

A North and South showdown as Middlesbrough take on Chelsea. Sky One's exclusive coverage starts at 2.30pm.



## LIVE from Trinidad The Third Test

As England fight to hold on to their series lead, ball-by-ball coverage of the third day's play starts on Sky at 3pm.



## LIVE from Sao Paulo Brazilian Grand Prix

Nigel Mansell will be aiming to repeat last year's win. Don't miss Eurosport's exclusive live coverage from 4.30pm.

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TELEVISION

## SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

## Vindication on the Tideway



A lone figure upright in the Oxford Boat, balancing like a statue. His mighty arms were raised to the sky, and his face stared in ecstasy into the heavens beyond. For a few moments Donald Macdonald was alone with his God

Donald went to a quiet corner of the dressing room for a moment and prayed, not that Oxford should just go out and win, but that everyone should reach their full potential and row as well as they ever could. He said how grateful he was that we were all here on this day, and that he hoped we would all come through our troubles stronger and better people. In his hand he clutched two postcards—one from his wife, Ruth, which read: "I love you my darling—whatever happens." The other read: "Be filled with the will to win. Take what belongs to you. Do not be denied. All best wishes and prayers. Michael Suarez." Donald ended his few moments of contemplation with the whispered words: "Please, please God, let me row the race of my life today."

Outside it began to rain, but the wind continued to build and the sky was

### Oxford start the Boat Race next Saturday as favourites, unlike the crew of 1987 which had been disrupted by mutiny. Daniel Topolski recalls the remarkable conclusion of that campaign, and the triumph of the man at the heart of the controversy, Donald Macdonald

overcast. The Cambridge camp supporters were a few yards away, laughing in the next boathouse, fully confident of their inevitable victory. I had a quick word with Albert, checked the boat again and went upstairs to get the boys. Inside the dressing room I called: "Okay lads, let's go down and watch Isis start against Goldie, then we'll go straight out on the water."

As each man came out, I wished him a personal 'Good luck', although I doubt if they were aware of my words by now.

And when the President stepped out I shook his hand and said: "This is it. Go get 'em Donald."

We stood outside in the rain and gave a rousing cheer as Isis powered bravely by in the reserve crews' Boat Race; but since we had taken half their rightful men it was not surprising they were on their way to defeat, albeit a narrow one.

We carried the Oxford Boat down to the water and Albert held her steady as the boys went back for their oars. Each man took his place, screwed his gaze

down tight, and I went quietly along the bank giving them a final word of encouragement, the last time I could speak to them before the start. "Give 'em hell, Hugh." "You're a key man here Tom. Make it a good one." A side-first punch on the arm for Donald. "Make that 6 seat work!" "Have a great race Gavin. Keep 'em at it." "Stay sharp, Paul." "Okay Andy? Remember the plan. Lean on Cambridge early, and use the corners."

By now there are thousands of people

on both banks of the river, which has been sealed off to traffic. An enormous cheer goes up as Oxford pull out into the stream. The television cameras are whirring. The eyes of the world are upon us now. Can the Oxford co-hopers possibly pull this off?

The launch *Bosphorus* eases into the bank to pick me up. Against all my old superstitions—since I reckon we don't have a chance anyway—I smuggle Ruth, Suzy and our baby on board together with Chris Davidge, the famous iron

man of the stroke seat. Only twelve passengers are officially allowed. As I climb aboard I can hear shouts of "Tough luck Dan, old son. Maybe next year."

Someone yells. "You might as well have stayed in the boathouse, Topolski." I join the other coaches in the bow of the Oxford launch, a space in the front reserved among Hugh Matheson, Steve Royle, John Pilgrim-Morris and Michael Barry. I give the thumbs-up sign and a wry smile to Bert. And someone asks: "How are they, Dan?" I grin and shrug: "As well as can be expected. But this could turn out to be horrible!"

Dr Barry comments: "Well, at least we have a crew on the water, which at one point looked extremely doubtful. From where we came from that is an achievement in itself."

Somehow Oxford are holding Cambridge at bay, racing through this windswept rough water with a kind of unflinching desperation, but the Light Blues hit back with a vengeance matching us stroke for stroke as we head up towards the Mile Post. We're back in exposed water again here, and once more both crews are slamming into the waves. Hugh Fellham, up in the bow, is getting soaked in the skin with water pouring into his eyes; but nothing puts him off his stroke; he never misses a beat.

The two boats are still locked together, but Oxford are now miraculously ahead by over half-a-length.

Up ahead Andy can see the wind-shadow he knows awaits us, and he continues to drive Cambridge back across the river even though they have an overlap. Moynihan cannot put up with this for long because we are now in neutral water, he grabs his white flag, and for the first time issues a warning to the Dark Blues. "Oxford return to your water," and pointing his flag towards Middlesex he shouts again: "Move over Oxford!"

We coaches are delirious at this dramatic race, some laughing in disbelief. "Well, our three minutes is up," I say. "That was what we came for. They've done everything I asked." We are all still resigned to eventual defeat but nevertheless enjoying the present experience hugely. However, out on the water, the crew have anything but defeat on their minds.

Lobbenberg steers over a fraction, but right then Cambridge

launch their biggest attack. Paddy Broughton forces the rate up to thirty-six in a desperate bid to defend his Surrey water. If they can only hit Oxford, caught over here on their side of the river, they could force a disqualification. Wolfson, the Light Blue cox is urging his tiring men to yet another effort, driving them up inside the battling Oxford crew. They gain a foot, then another, and another. Now they have a four-foot overlap, and Andy

"It's those bloody plastic oars. They're killing Cambridge off."

Cambridge seem to filter on the sixth stroke of their effort and imperceptibly Broughton's challenge begins to fade as their rating drops, first to thirty-four and then to thirty-two. This proud and talented crew are, for the moment, rendered impotent by the harsh, rough conditions, and the equipment with which they have chosen to do battle.

Incredulously I glance across at

Gavin. His head is leaning to one side at every stroke, but he still has Oxford firing along at thirty-five, and behind him the boys are following in fine form, their cohesion getting better the further they go, as they fight their way towards Hammersmith Bridge. Hell, I've

never seen them rowing so well. They are opening up a lead of nearly two lengths and for the first time I'm thinking they might actually get away with it. They are all very tired now, but Andy is holding them together well. "Keep those finishes burned and sit back. Hands down and away! Coming up to the bridge and it's rough again up ahead."

Always cautious, I still think Cambridge have the strength and the brilliance to launch another attack, and I am by no means certain that we can repel it if they do. I can see how weary Oxford are—only a third of the way through this battle for supremacy, and it is with mounting horror

that I see the Light Blues begin to harden their stroke as Oxford drive towards the left-hand side of the centre arch.

A great cheer goes up from the crowd as the Dark Blues shoot the bridge seven seconds ahead. As they burst through with a good punchy racing stride of thirty-four, the crowds on the other side can't believe their eyes. It is as if mass hallucination has conjured up a ghost: the rank underdogs come powering underneath them holding a lead of nearly two lengths.

"It's Oxford!" A yell of disbelief erupts when they catch sight of Fellham's Dark Blue blade. Lobbenberg steers hard left for the Surrey side close to the crowds and Donald is startled to hear people clearly shouting "Come on Donald, you can do it!" from the bank. They are calling out his name, cheering and chanting: "MacDonald, MacDonald, MacDonald, MacDonald." A brand new, rather shy British hero is being born.

Now Cambridge are attacking again, blazing through the bridge with all guns firing. With tremendous courage and resilience they quickly slice half-a-length off our lead, driving a line for the Surrey bank, on our inside. Suddenly they are within a length of the overlap which will allow them to push us back out across the river. They are matching our rating, and with every stroke they seem to be gaining a bit more. Haven't Oxford seen them? They're going to go caught!

Donald shoulders first. "They're coming back!" Cadoux-Hudson, realizing the danger, roars: "Go—go—go!" In front of him Gavin reaches out once more, beyond the

agony of his aching arms, and accelerates the oar through the water. They are all hurting now, but somehow they match Gavin's long deep action.

The pain in their thighs and backs is excruciating as they dig deep for something extra. This is what all that endurance training through the winter was for. This is why everyone in the squad had to give 110 per cent, why no one could shrirk. This race is indeed unlike any other in the world.

The whole crew looks agonized, their mouths flying open as they lean back into the stroke. Their hair lies matted, flattened by sweat and rain and river spray. They are not yet halfway and Cambridge are closing fast. The lactic acid is throbbing into their joints. Shoulder muscles are crying "No more!" But now Lobbenberg is calling for another effort.

"Come on, Oxford! Answer them... give me ten... right now... in one!... go!" Cadoux-Hudson's head jerks back as he follows Gavin into the stroke. I can see Donald's oar bending into an arc as he follows the two giants in front of him. And now Gavin's head tucks down onto his right shoulder—the position he always adopts when he's digging deep for the will to ignore the pain.

On my stopwatch they are at thirty-five, and at this pace I am not sure how much longer they can take it. Because this is not a boat race any longer. This is a

prizefight on the river, and it has come down to raw courage. Who has the hunger? Who wants it most? And although there is always a special private nobility about such a contest, what finally decides it is when one crew finds suddenly that it has nothing more to give.

Cambridge's last desperate push beyond Hammersmith was full of valour, in a race where valour is a common virtue. But the first mile had hurt them badly, and when Oxford hit back, when they answered that final urgent demand from Lobbenberg, that was just too much for the Light Blues. They caved in, the fight draining away from their tired bodies.

And now we seemed to be floating out from the shadow of

Hammersmith Bridge into brighter weather. I looked back down the racecourse to the black clouds which still hung over Putney, the scene of so much of my despair during the past months. For me they were symbolic of the black mood which had hung over the Boat Club for so long. The light beyond the bridge now promised that we would break through into paradise, and all I could see was Oxford rowing strongly away along Chiswick Reach, well clear of a Cambridge crew that could not find it in themselves to come back at them again. At least not today, they wouldn't. And I was suddenly free. Perhaps I would return to coach

Oxford again in a few years time, but not until the rebels were all finally gone. For now I was resolved to sit back and enjoy one of the greatest Dark Blue triumphs in history.

Up along the island they rowed, past Chiswick Steps and round the corner. Stewart still had the rate up at thirty-four although they were a good three lengths ahead. And they looked good; damned good. At Barnes Bridge they stepped it up for a grandstand finish and all along the river people were shouting, "Oxford!" and "Well done, Donald!" "Terrific row, Donald!" They went past the four-mile mark with three-and-a-half lengths to spare and came through the last 374 yards at a fierce finishing pace, storming over the line four lengths clear of the favourites.

As the Dark Blue boat drifted under the bridge, I saw a sight I have never before witnessed after a Boat Race. A lone figure was standing up in the Oxford Boat, balancing like a statue on the two wooden stays which run just beneath the sabbards inside the boat. His mighty arms were raised upwards to the sky, and his face stared in ecstasy into the heavens beyond. It might have been a demonstration of brute strength, or even a display of massive triumph—the bold stance of the victor. But for a few brief shining moments, Donald Macdonald was alone with his God.

These are extracts from *True Blue*, by Daniel Topolski with Patrick Robinson, recently published in paperback by Bantam Books (£4.99).

## YACHTING

## Putting safety at sea first

By Barry Pickthall

The Royal Ocean Racing Club, in conjunction with *The Times*, is to hold a national Safety at Sea Conference for yachtsmen at Central Hall, Westminster on April 21.

The conference follows the initiative taken by *The Times* and the RORC in setting up a Safety at Sea committee of experts, headed by Alan Green, the race director of the RORC, to answer the concerns expressed by many skippers.

The committee includes the round-the-world yachtsmen, Robin Knox-Johnston and Chay Blyth, together with the Richard Allan, director of the Army Personnel Research Establishment at Farnborough, and members of the (Command) and the Royal Yachting Association. It has been responsible for developing and testing several man-overboard location and recovery systems which have

since saved the lives of three crewmen during the Whitbread Round the World Race.

"The conference follows several fatal and near-fatal man-overboard incidents around our own coasts and has been called to give both racing and cruising yachtsmen a greater awareness of safety measures, and emergency procedures," Green said. The day-long programme includes presentations by 15th on "Surviving safely in heavy weather," an analysis by the experienced American yachtsman and author, John Rousmaniere, of errors and other factors that lead to sailing accidents, and a lecture by Stuart Munro, one of Britain's most accomplished kittedeck hands, on crew routines and techniques.

In addition, Jerry Robinson, skipper of the Fastnet entry, Hayley's Dream, and his crewman, John West, will recount

their nightmare when West fell overboard during the 1988 race, while Cdr Peter Lindsay-Smith, the Royal Navy's first meteorologist, will present a practical guide to the approaching signs of bad weather.

Dr Allan, the Ministry of Defence scientist who has led the research programme carried out during the past year by *The Times*/RORC Safety at Sea Committee, will present two papers: one highlights protection against hypothermia and recent advances made in off-shore clothing designs; the second presentation covers the latest man-overboard location and recovery systems developed and tested by the committee.

Admission is by ticket only, priced at £25 (which includes lunch), available from Safety at Sea Conference, Royal Ocean Racing Club, 20 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NN.

## Fifth finisher confirms French superiority

By Malcolm McKeag

The arrival in Los Angeles of the *Argos*, the first of the five French monohulls, brought the number of finishers so far in the Globe Challenge single-handed non-stop round the world race to five, and effectively wrapped up the record breaking.

Follenfant completed his circumnavigation in 114 days. Even in fifth place, the time was well inside the previous world's best—before this race—of 125 days. The next competitor, Adam Gautier, is still 2,400 miles from home.

The now-famous five—Tiquan Lamazou, who won in 109 days, Loick Peyron, Jean-Luc van den Heede, Philippe Jeantot and Follenfant—have not only demonstrated how firmly the world of long-distance, short-handed sailing is

dominated by France, but even more importantly, how effective and seaworthy are the 60-foot monohulls that have evolved around this sort of ocean racing.

It has been a splendid adventure. Thirteen set out last November the five finishers did so without serious misadventure. Gautier, who leads the three remaining in the race, was the first of those who stumbled on the way. His Generali Concorde suffered gear failure, including having her Argos satellite reporting beacon swept off the deck in the Southern Ocean. Three others retired, and three more are completing the course unofficially, having been forced to stop.

## FISHING

## Aspersions on inventions

By Conrad Voss Bark

Some years ago, the Americans introduced a fishing vest which had many pockets to hold tackle instead of the tackle being carried in a fishing bag. It was hailed as a new invention.

Perhaps it was, in one sense, new, for it was a vest or a waistcoat, designed to hold tackle, but if you like to call it a fishing apron, then it was by no means new. A gentleman called by a pen-name, The North Country Angler, used an apron with large pockets to hold his fishing tackle as long ago as 1786.

There was quite a fuss some years back about a new English invention in fly dressing, the attachment of small beads at the head of a reservoir lure to suggest eyes. Joyful imitations of small fry, minnows and perch, were vastly improved by the additions of eyes which made

them irresistible to trout.

There were no reservoir lures in the 18th century, but the dragon fly imitations used for salmon fishing had bead eyes which were said to be infallible attractors. They were not infallible, of course, for nothing in the world, eyes or no eyes, will persuade a salmon to take something if he does not feel like it.

It might also be worth mentioning that dry fly fishing—that is fishing a floating fly—is not particularly new either. They tried it as long ago as the mid-1600s by tying slips of cork under the body of the fly to make it float. They were hard put to it to fish it upstream, unless the wind was with them, but they could fish it across and down and still find it on top of the water. We had to wait until something really new—the

heavy braided dressed silk lines in and around 1870s—before they could be cast against the wind.

As for fishermen's knots, they are constantly being rediscovered. When I first fished Blagdon Lake in or around 1930, we used a knot called the Double Twist to tie on our gut casts for our flies. Forty years later, it was re-invented and is now known by what seems to me a rather unpleasant name of The Grinner.

I mention such things not to denigrate invention, merely to be suspicious of articles such as those I saw a couple of weeks ago in a fishing magazine about a new way to fish a nymph. It was, in fact, a very old way. The truth is that our fathers knew a great deal more about fly fishing than we are sometimes inclined to believe.



# Becquerel looks Charlton flier

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

There is still a maximum of 25 runners for today's William Hill Lincoln Handicap over the straight mile at Doncaster. Becquerel, who has been a consistent performer over the last few months, is one of the favourites. He is also a winner over a mile on fast ground.

On a point of handicapping, he could also have been let in on the light side with only 5st 6lb. For his second run at Newmarket last season made him out to be about as good as the 4lb inferior to today's top weight, Upward Trend, in two races in Ireland. Yet Upward Trend has to give Becquerel 18lb.

Salman, Midfielder, On My Merits, Kiva, Western Wolf, Inishpaur and Vauroy are others who have won over today's distance when it has been firm.

On the book there should be little between Salman and Western Wolf, but I find it disconcerting that the latter broke a blood vessel when sent hurdling at Kempton last month.

Bearing in mind the fact that he has not raced for more than two years, Terminator may be the medium of a remarkable ante-post gamble down to 7-1 from 33-1.

His connections have been praying for rain because he always needed some give in the ground to produce his best when he was trained by Henry Candy for whom he finished third in the Cambridgehire.

On ground as fast as it was yesterday, Terminator may be beaten by Becquerel, who is taken to give Roger Charlton a dream start to his training career.

I saw Becquerel looking sleek and well in his box at Doncaster recently, and

his preparation has gone according to plan.

As he won first time out last season, Becquerel is clearly a horse who comes to hand easily. He is also a winner over a mile on fast ground.

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The Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Terminator, seen winning at York last season, has been the subject of a substantial ante-post gamble for today's Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster

Cambridge Trophy for which his trainer Bill O'Gorman also saddles the useful ex-French colt Nucleon, who has been winning on the all-weather surface.

For the day's best bet, though, I look no further than Trefleya Cane, who is named to win the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares Novices Hurdle final at Newbury even with 12 stone on her back.

Having won two point-to-point last season, three National Hunt flat races and two hurdle races this term, she looks exactly the sort capable of dominating again.

Trefleya, my selection for

the Brown Chamberlain Handicap Chase, has tended to reserve her best for Newbury while Third In Line, my choice for the final of the Racing Post Novices' Chase series, will relish both the ground and the distance.

Brooks status quo

Charlie Brooks has quashed rumours that he will be coupling a new stable jockey next year. At Newbury yesterday, Brooks said: "It will be the same arrangement as this season, with Peter Scudamore and Ben de Haan taking the ride."

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 3.40 Rose Glen, 5.15 Myer.

Deltic breaks course record

Deltic broke the course record when winning the Longmynd Novices' Hurdle at Ludlow yesterday.

Making virtually all the running, Deltic was never in the slightest danger and cruised to a five-length success over Mohammed El-Sahn.

Deltic's time of 3min 33.1sec beat the previous best set up by Honeyman in 1986 by nine tenths of a second.

The Martin Pipe-trained winner, Peter Scudamore's only ride of the day, is one of five horses owned by the 12-member syndicate, Pond House Racing.

DONCASTER	
Selections	
By Mandarin	By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Godscharm.	2.30 Dannenon.
3.05 Mill Pond.	3.05 Charnier.
3.40 Becquerel.	3.40 Rose Glen.
4.15 Magic Ana.	4.15 Little Big.
4.45 Mac's Fighter.	4.45 NUCLEON (nap).
5.15 Golden Scissors.	5.15 Sator.
5.45 Katie's First.	5.45 Isab.

By Michael Seely

3.40 TERMINATOR. 4.45 Mac's Fighter. 5.45 Swagman.

## Guide to our in-line racecard

108 (12) 6-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (C.D.F./J.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hail 8-10-0. S Wood (4) 98

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4.15 MAIL ON SUNDAY SERIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: 24,077: 7) (18 runners)	
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- GUIDE TO BRITISH FESTIVALS
- COOL DAYS IN ICELAND

## TRAVEL

How to see, to tread softly; when to move, when not to move: Michael Watkins falls in with the rhythms of the veld, and learns its lessons

Creatures of the past: the road signs that once warned *Gevaar Olifante* — Danger, Elephants — are gone, and so are many of the elephants. But at the game reserve at Mala Mala you can still spot the Big Five — lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant

## Wandering under African skies

Arriving in Johannesburg after an absence of some years, for my seventh visit, I landed at Jan Smuts airport the day Nelson Mandela returned to Soweto after 27 years as a political prisoner. On my hotel room television, I watched his patient face, listening as he repeated the words used at his 1964 trial: "I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination."

Next morning the world continued on its predetermined axis. Guests in the hotel lobby smiled or frowned, according to their several natures. The newspaper, *Business Day*, commented on Mr Mandela's speech in its second leader. Everything had changed; nothing had changed.

But I was not in South Africa to comment on imponderables or to make moral judgements; neither was I there to construe comfortable, apocryphal topics. Indeed, my presence was in itself an act of atonement for averting my eyes from matters about which I was maliciously uninformed.

It is a melancholy fact that many of us are uninformed about apartheid and the apparatus by which it is being dismantled. An inordinate sense of fear keeps us at arm's length.

But who, I ask myself, is being fair to whom? By casting ourselves in the role of umpire we distance ourselves from reality when, for better or worse, we would learn more from getting in among the players.

With this in mind I quit Jo'burg, flying to Nelspruit in the eastern Transvaal, and from there by Land-Rover to Mala Mala, 45,000 acres of game reserve straddling the Sand River. It is a private reserve with a common boundary of 20 miles with the Kruger National Park, its chief advantage being that although its rules are strict, they are flexible: you can follow game into the bush well off the beaten track, and you can disdain "curfew" hours.

By late afternoon, I was loading up with ranger Richard du Toit and two Shangan trackers. Feeding four rounds into the magazine of his .375 Magnum, with one up the spout, Richard applied the

safety catch, secured the rifle to a forward mount — and we were away. If I tell you that by the time of our dusk return to camp we had sighted all of the Big Five — lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant — you will think I have been bribed. But it is true, the last being an old bull elephant, big as a Pickfords removal van; nothing roguish about him, he was all alone and grumbling. One day, I thought, he'll go down in the shade of a tree and decide not to get up. And when they find his carcass, the herd will mourn him. But the elephants belong to the past, not to the future. They are threatened and it is a pity.

In bushveld there is a morning smell and an evening smell, both distinctive and special; if you have experienced Africa you will know what I mean. In Africa, the trees are different and potentially dangerous. English trees are safe: we sit in their shade, dozing, munching apples, courting. African trees give shade to cats with killer claws. Anything can happen, so you keep alert.

Mind you, for the equivalent of £513 for two people a day, you would expect something to happen at Mala Mala. You would expect to see the yeti or a unicorn for that kind of money.

Something nearly happened to me; I nearly met Harry Manners. He was described as a small, wiry man, about 5ft 4in, who had shot the largest elephant on record. He had worked for a company selling game meat to the Kimberley diamond mines and had killed a lot of elephants. In retirement, he helped at the Skukuza air strip, in the Kruger National Park, humping luggage; but when I stopped by they told me he was off sick, that he had pulled a muscle. Surviving years in the bush, it was the Guccis and the Vuittons that eventually got him. So I never met him, and I was left wondering what I would have said to the man who lived by destroying elephants.

For 24 hours, I ventured into the Kruger, sleeping at Skukuza rest camp, which was cheap and clean, but dull fare after Mala Mala. There had been heavy rain, so there was little movement of game; and the camp had been souped up to accommodate conveyor-belt viewing, coaches galore and enough bullbaiting to give the lowliest primate colic. I was glad to leave.

I flapped my wings towards Port Elizabeth, where once a religious Afrikaner had explained the role of black Africans to me, quoting from Joshua nine, verse 23, that they were "hewers of wood and drawers of water". I considered this as I set off from Port Elizabeth, along the Garden Route, through Humansdorp, past Storms River and into the Tsitsikamma Forest, where the

inkwoods and Outeniqua yellow-woods grow.

Once, when I used to drive this road, there were signs — *Gevaar Olifante* (Danger, Elephants) — and there was a game warden named Nick Carter, author of a book, *The Elephants of Kynsna*. The signs are down now, and so are the elephants.

I spent the night at a rather dishy hotel, the Plettenberg at Plettenberg Bay, which had fine views, fine food, direct-dial telephones, silk flowers in reception and Yorkshire addresses in the visitors' book. Walking along the sand, I was further reminded of Yorkshire at its wind-scoured best; real socks-and-sandals country, with shrimping nets and seas that boomed on to the beach. I watched a family with their yellow Labrador pup. They would leave a stick into the waves as the dog wallowed, wuffed and retrieved. Irreverently, I thought of Kipling's "If", of Beecham's Powders, Winnie the Pooh and Willie Whitelaw. It was lovely, but somehow it was not out of Africa.

Next day, I dawdled along to Wilderness, a misnomer if there ever was one. It is no more wild than Kew, profuse with proteas, moraeas, agapanthus, sparaxis. As South Africans, quick on the draw with biblical quotations, are fond of saying, "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed..."

Nearby was a town called George, grown sleek since my last visit, proud of its new hotel, the Fancourt, which had its own smartly saluting security guard and an impressive coat of arms. I spent tea-time by the pool, drying myself on plump towels, fielding the occasional haw-haw laugh and watching.

I dined sumptuously, wearing my blue tie with white spots; but I was getting restive, aware that I had been gift-wrapped, that my taste buds had been insulated from Africa's natural flavour. I longed for the bush, for the rough touch of the nearby semi-desert Karoo. Mostly, I yearned for some form of contact, however peripheral, with those hewers of wood and drawers of water out there in the dark.

In parts of the Karoo, black and coloured agricultural labourers are paid by the *dop* system, their wages being dispensed in wine as well as cash; arguably because wine dulls the pain of travelling second-class through life. There is talk of abandoning the system, but it survives in Outdushoorn. As a place name, Outdushoorn has an onomatopoeic ring of repetition. A rather jolly tone, one thinks, sybaritic, swollen with comestibles. In fact, it is arid and callous. Too parched to yield profitable tobacco crops, it is nevertheless sheer heaven for ostriches; which, far too busy laying eggs that produce omelettes the equivalent of 24 hen's eggs, do not bury their heads in sand. Instead, they moulth feathers.

In Edwardian times, feathers were all the rage. Dowagers wore them decorously, debs flattered



them flirtatiously. As a result of this, the Feather Barons of Outdushoorn established a lightweight dynasty, commissioning the construction of their "Feather Palaces".

Heading for Prince Albert, beloved by those who live there, I first had to cross the Swarberg Pass, the 125 mile barrier between the Little and Great Karoo. There is a perfectly respectable alternative by tarmac road, but by using it you deprive yourself of one of the most noble mountain massifs in Africa. Rain and rock falls can close the pass, which would be your bad luck, for you would miss, along its craggy heights and stunning desolation, a signpost: Gamka Kloof 57kms.

In the Boer War, a lost band of Boer guerrillas hoping to rejoin the body of their commando, led by General Smuts, stumbled on an isolated valley scattered with primitive huts they took to be a Hottentot community. They were approached by a shaggy giant of a white man, dressed in goatskins and speaking outlandish Dutch. They were sheltered, fed milk and honey by the descendants of early 19th-century *trekkers* (nomadic farmers) and sent on their way.

The *trekkers* are still in Gamka Kloof, discouraging insurance agents, encyclopaedia salesmen and the likes of me by the impregnability of their defences. Aiming Mr Avis's car towards their valley, I was forced to give up after a couple of miles. You would need a four-wheel-drive or a camel.

Disappointed not to meet these recluses, I none the less admired their style. I was less impressed by Prince Albert, where apricots are grown and the Sabbath is properly observed. I put my foot down across the scorching desert for Matjesfontein, of which I had fond memories.

The Lord Milner Hotel at Matjesfontein lives on in all its antique glory, so remote from the hurly-burly that once, when the lights failed, the nearest electricity came 75 miles, only to find a dead mouse in the fuse-box. The hotel is haunted, naturally; the click of billiard balls is heard from an empty billiard room; doors rattle, puffs of chill air pass along corridors. I slept there, dreamlessly, in a four-poster, coming down to a breakfast choice of 16 marmalades and jams.

The physical contrast between the Karoo and the vineyards of the Klein Drakenstein Valley near Paarl, just four hours' drive separating them, is spectacular. In other respects, things remain much of a muchness. At a dinner party given by Basie Maartens at Mountain Shadows, his Cape Dutch manor house, I listened to a guest tell, with justifiable pride, of

the seven schools he had built for his 7,000 black farm workers and their families. "We organized a bathing party, they'd never been to the sea before. When they saw the wave and foam, they said it was boiling water, they'd be scalded if they went in."

These wine towns of Paarl and Stellen-

bosch descend in direct line from the early French Huguenot settlers of 1657. They called their farms *Laborie*, *Goede Hoop*, *La Concorde* and *Nancy*, leaving an imperishable imprint on architecture, customs, faith and an extraordinary tenacity, for Paarl contributed hugely to the establishment of the Afrikaans language. It was Arnoldus Pannevis, a classical languages teacher at Paarl Gymnasium, who became aware in the 1870s that although Dutch was the language of the people,

many of the common people found it double Dutch to understand. Thus was the *Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners* (Society of True Afrikaners) formed. There is even, to my knowledge the only one in Christendom, a language monument, the Tsalmonumt, 360 feet tall.

The moral of this little diversion, as if you had not guessed, is that Afrikaners take themselves just the tiniest bit seriously.

I enjoyed the Mount Nelson hotel in Cape Town, the "Nellie" as it is affectionately known. I always do. It is an extremely good hotel. No less did I enjoy the journey back to Johannesburg aboard the Blue Train.

I passed much of the 24-hour journey in the bar, watching the desert nibble into the flatlands of the Orange Free State, which, in their turn, gnawed at the foothills of the Transvaal highveld.

I also watched a couple of Afrikaners, their beefy backsides overflowing bar stools; and it astonished me that while their vastly resourceful landscape changed so rapidly in hue and texture, they concentrated so ferociously on the dwindling assets in the bottom of their tankards.

## TRAVEL NOTES

● Michael Watkins's travel arrangements were made by Southern Africa Travel, 15 Micklegate, York YO1 1JH (0904 838528). Specialist in South Africa, it will plan individual itineraries, including safari game viewing, scenic and cultural programmes. As an approximate price guide, 14 days including economy London-Johannesburg flights, Avis self-drive car, best hotels available, £1,913 a person. To include a private car with full-time driver/guide, £2,900 a person. Add £900 a person for Club class flights.

● Cautionary note: Michael Watkins paid £1,544 for a South African Airways Gold Class (Club) ticket, which was endorsed "OK" both ways, but when he checked in for the return flight to London he was put on "wait-list standby" at Jan Smuts airport.

● Travellers wishing to avoid South African stamps in their passports may obtain "loose-leaf" insertions from the Chief Immigration Officer. Enquiries should be addressed to the South African Tourist Board (SATOUR), Regency House, 1-4 Warwick Street, London W1R 5BW (01-439 9661).

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## TRAVEL

# Having a wail of a time

**W**e all bow low before the dipping rotors of the Bell Jet Ranger. A few are even knocked to their knees by the wash as the whirling beast settles in, inches from our huddled mass. Adrenaline vies with anxiety as the first 11, the "advanced" group, fumble into the cramped interior, jostling knees and groping for seat belts. Day one of heli skiing in British Columbia.

For devout skiers, heli skiing in the Canadian Rockies is almost a hadji. Pilgrims from all over the world pay anything from £2,000 a week for the privilege of being borne to the mountains. And they come again and again. In any week 74 per cent are repeat customers.

Even the veterans are looking a little queasy, though, as we pound through layer after layer of impenetrable snow. Fog has built up in the valleys. The temperature has risen from -18°C to just above zero. Two metres of unskied snow

## Doug Sager goes heli skiing in British Columbia

lie invisible below us. Suddenly the chopper roars louder into the clear air. Sandro, the Swiss pilot, climbs a vertical face and nudges down into a narrow notch on the side. As we pile out into the thigh-deep snow, I see through the biting spray being thrown up by the chopper that we are perched inches from a 1,000ft drop-off.

As we flounder in the deep snow Sandro drives the Bell over the edge and drops right down the precipice. Thierry, the bandito-moustached chief guide, starts throwing bundles of skis and sticks across the hole in the snow left by the chopper. There is an urgency to get moving, as the Bell will soon be back with a second group of skiers.

Heli skiing with Canadian Mountain Holidays is a highly orchestrated operation. Every

lodge at the eight staging areas accommodates 44 skiers. Four groups, varying in ability from hell-bent to "introductory", share the same big Bell. In total, CMH skis an area the size of Switzerland.

Interior British Columbia is famed for metres-deep dry powder. But, as CMH warns explicitly, it is not always like that. You could be snowed in the lodge for a week, grounded by high winds, or forced to ski through less than ideal snow.

Thierry leads us skittering off the wind-blown summit down into irritating breakable crust over to the forest. Here, sheltered in the trees, is deep snow. Thierry plunges in with a whoop. I follow, with a wail.

The snow is deep, but wet and heavy. The best technique is to head straight down the hill, turning minimally and with little exertion.

Thierry is a track in the snow. Through tight trees, down a ravine and into a clearing to wait for the helicopter. I savour the satisfaction of watching the boy racers crash and burn, digging for



Borne free: A helicopter whisks away after dropping skiers off on a mountain top. The first ones down get the first lift back home, pulling their heads from snowbanks.

Heli skiing is highly competitive, and macho. Drawing up the list for the first 11 is a diplomatic task. Those who come together want to ski together.

But keeping the client happy, or quiet, does not extend to breaching the prevailing ethic: do not keep the group waiting. First group down gets the next chopper.

Time was, the older guides recalled, when the sort of people attracted to heli skiing were mainly dentists and drug dealers. Those party days have passed. Our group was composed of engineers and school-teachers.

There have always been serious skiers at CMH, even families. Dedicated diarchards like Bob Whittington, an aerospace engineer from Seattle, have been bringing the kids every year since Hans Gmoser started the company in 1965. One client has skied more than 13 million vertical feet.

It is easy for the clients to forget just how close to the edge heli skiing is. Cosseted in remote lodges, accessible only by helicopter, or enjoying après ski sessions in the Jacuzzi, one might be in any good hotel.

Gmoser keeps a close eye on operations, constantly touring the various areas. CMH has its own remote weather stations and radio links. Guides monitor the snowpack, insist on flying over every slope before trusting skiers to it. But perhaps the guides' hardest job is holding over-eager skiers in check. Up on a glacier in the Selkirk in good powder, the boys were straining at the leash. While Kevin, a guide from New Zealand, tried to explain how we should stay to one side of his track, in order to avoid the crevasses, Gaston, an experienced Swiss skier, snuffed in an aside, "I've seen crevasses before".

### TRAVEL NOTES

• All CMH bookings in British Columbia are handled by Powder Skiing North America, 81 Donerale Street, London SW5 8EW (01-738 8191).

Bookings from Britain do not include flights to Calgary; but Canadian/Wardair is offering a bargain return deal for £308. • CMH supplies special powder skis free and has fully stocked ski shops at each area. But you must bring your own boots. February and March tend to be booked earliest, but December and April can offer great powder.

## Rapid moves to find snow

Skiers will have to rush around switching runs in the morning and afternoon to get the best of the slopes

**S**o far March has confirmed both the wisdom of choosing to ski later in the season and the limitations of spring snow. The major falls of the second half of February have taken a bit of a beating between the warm sunshine and frosty nights. The magnificent conditions at the beginning of the month have been replaced by a mixed bag.

Generally the best snow is now to be found in France. In particular, above 2,000m on north-facing runs in resorts such as Tignes, Val Thorens and the Combes on Mont Du Vallon and Saulire in Méribel and Courchevel have continued to provide excellent skiing. Lower down and further east it is a somewhat different story.

The problem is a rapid switch from morning ice to afternoon slush which requires careful planning to get the best out of the still plentiful snow. Where possible, it is a matter of choosing the low east and south-facing runs in the morning and

moving to the higher north and west-facing slopes later in the day.

The immediate prospect is for cooler north-westerly winds to bring more variable weather and some snow. But, if the snow is to be sufficient to meet the heavy demands of Easter, this shift will have to continue for two or three weeks. In this respect, recent years seem to have established a pattern of producing some of the best snow late in the season, which is reassuring for those who will be holidaying in April.

If, however, there is a return to sunny weather, then the important thing to remember is to use plenty of high-factor sun lotion. The combination of extra ultra-violet radiation, highly reflective snow cover and winter pallor greatly increases the risk of severe sunburn. Without proper protection, as I saw among unwary skiers last week, the consequences can be painful and disfiguring.

W. J. Burroughs

### TRAVEL NEWS

Holidays in Britain look like being more popular this year as foreign package sales continue to lag behind 1989 levels. The English Tourist Board says research among 29 leading British holiday operators shows most of them reporting a higher level of early bookings, with half claiming increases of 10 per cent or more.

The ETB, along with the other domestic tourist boards, has just launched a campaign backed up by special offers available through major travel agency chains.

A series of lower-priced holidays to Italy to tie in with this summer's World Cup competition has been launched by Italiatour, one of the operators officially appointed to carry British supporters. Match tickets are either included in prices or guaranteed as optional extras. An 11-night self-catering package covering England's three games in Sardina in June costs from £495. Information: 01-936 2614.

Single-parent families are targeted in the new 1990/91 short breaks programme from the Best Western Hotels group. Special deals are featured at 38 hotels throughout the UK - plus Jersey and the Isle of Man - with free accommodation for up to two children under 16 sharing a

room with one parent. Prices start at £64 for two nights' half-board accommodation, with children's meals charged as taken. Brochures available on 01-541 5767 (24-hour answering service).

Air Canada is cutting the age threshold for its spring cut-price transatlantic fares promotion for "senior passengers" from 62 to 55. A companion of any age can accompany a passenger aged 55 or over at the same fare, provided they travel together during the entire trip. Typical fares are £322 return between London and Toronto or £439 for London-Vancouver. The offer is available between April 23 and June 15, and the return journey has to be completed by July 21. Information: 01-759 2636.

The Hilton Hotels group is extending its gliding weekend breaks to seven centres around the UK. Participants can choose one or two-day courses with trial lessons in a dual-controlled glider. Prices start at £114 for a one-day course based at the Hilton National in Garforth. Other centres are at Warwick, Watford, Bristol, Portsmouth, Newbury and Horsham. Information: 0923 38877.

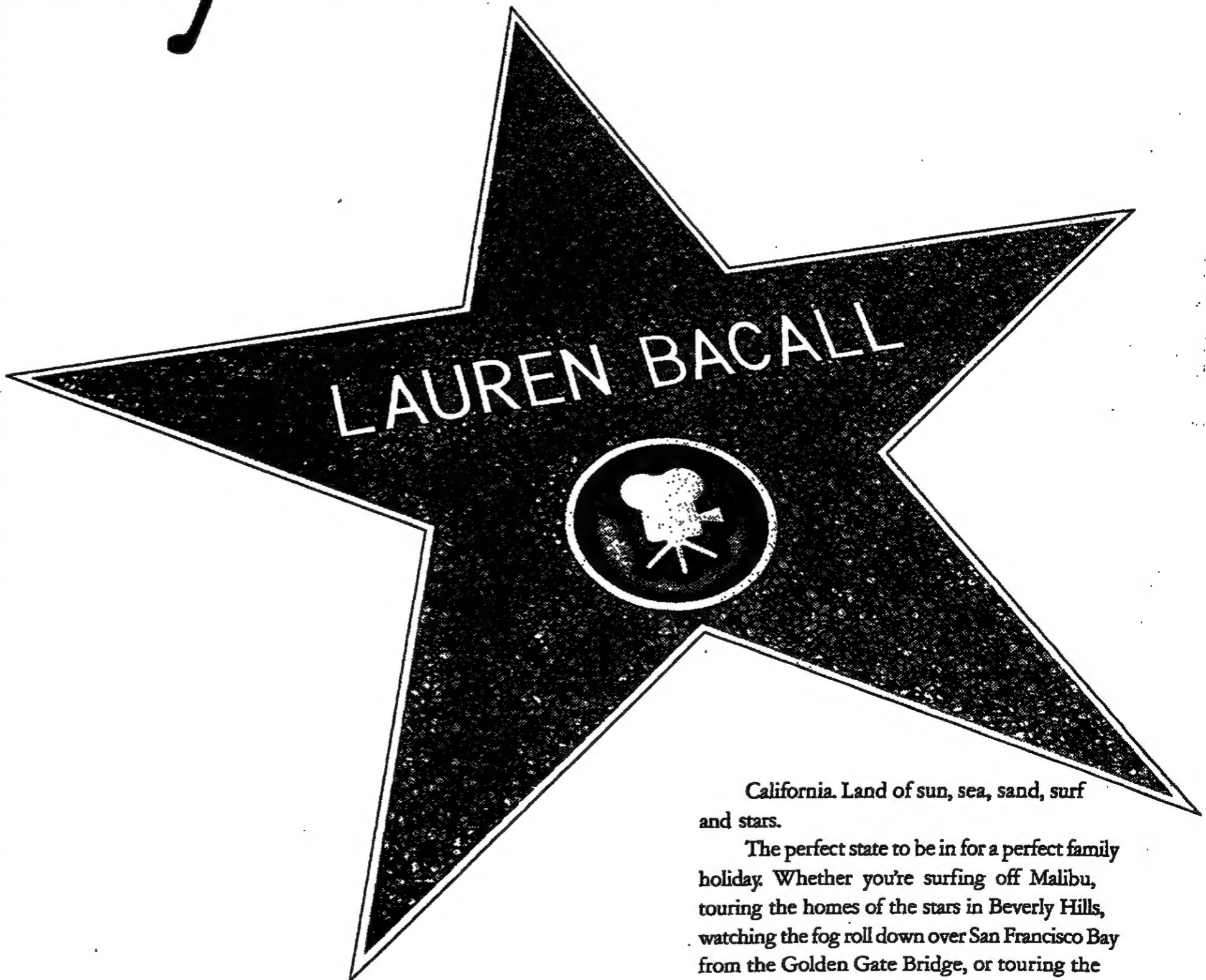
Philip Ray

• The telephone number of the British Sub-Aqua Club, featured in "Leaping in at the deep end" (The Times, March 17), should have been 01-387 9302.

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## TRAVEL

Anne Whitehouse selects the best of this year's celebrations of music, drama, film, dance and the visual arts on offer up and down the country

# Festivals of Britain

## MARCH

**1990 IN GLASGOW:** Glasgow celebrates its year as Cultural Capital of Europe with a series of festivals, plus theatre (including work by Dumas and Brecht); opera (including *Prince Igor* and *Boris Godunov*); music (including visits by Berlin Philharmonic and Leningrad Symphony, SNO Proms, and inauguration of Glasgow International Concert Hall in October); Scottish Ballet in 21st birthday year; and RSC touring production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Also folk and traditional music; children's and sports events: 300th Glasgow Fair on Glasgow Green; Pavarotti concert, and Asian Bazaar. Plus Mayfest; country music; jazz, folk and women's festivals; early music; and festival of Jewish culture.

**BROMLEY ARTS FESTIVAL:** Celebration of Golden Jubilee of Battle of Britain and 25th anniversary of Bromley Borough, with some 150 events including barn dance, concert, and Berlioz' *Requiem* in specially converted hangar at RAF Biggin Hill; Michael Jayston in dramatization of Churchill and Roosevelt; premiere of Scott Joplin opera *Treemonisha*; Opera Miniatures in *Così Fan Tutte*; and appearances by Jake Thackray, Songmakers' Almanac, Max Collie and Rhythmic Aces.

**HAIRY 1990:** Celebration of 150th anniversary of Hairy's birth. Various venues in Dorset. April 21-September 30: Hairy 1990 Office, Poole

**Centre Library, Dolphin Centre, Poole, Dorset (0202 673919)**  
**HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Young musicians from Australia, Canada, Scandinavia, Europe, US, USSR and UK in non-competitive festival of choirs, bands, dance, orchestras, including bell ringing, circus, wind and madrigal ensembles. Also Easter Parade, faraway dance. April 11-18: Concertworld, 6 Belmont Hill, London SE13 (01-892 2035)  
**LEITH HILL MUSICAL FESTIVAL:** Choir competitions and concerts at Dorling Halls, with Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, and Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. April 19-21: Box-office, 24 Regent Road, Reigate, Surrey (0782 243891)  
**NAIWSWORTH FESTIVAL:** Seventh festival marks centenary of birth of Gloucestershire war poet Ivor Gurney, with *Songs of Lonely Roads*, a musical drama by Gloucestershire composer Johnny Coppin. Also folk, classical and brass music; Gardeners' Question Time; working railway for train-spectators. April 28-May 7: Di Jackson, Kirland, Star Hill, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire (045383 4588)

**NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL:** New and established drama presented by students at various venues around Scarborough. April 5-12: Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Valley Bridge Parade, Scarborough, North Yorkshire (0723 370542)

**NORTHERN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MINE, DANCE AND VISUAL THEATRE:** Artists include Theatre de Complicité, Trestle Theatre Co, Nola Rae and Kazoom Kazoom, with cabaret evenings, workshops and film. April 27-May 6: Brewery Arts Centre, Highgate, Kendal (0539 725133)  
**ST ENDELION EASTER FESTIVAL:** Chamber music and choral works, including *St John Passion*, with Richard Hickox conducting. Talks

and readings from Sir John Betjeman's works. April 8-15: Details: Mrs Holden, Rock House, Delabole, Cornwall (0840 213242).

## MAY

**BATH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL:** Celebration of Spanish culture with visits by Gumbre Flamenco dancers, Hesperion early music ensemble, guitarist Paco Peña; French theme features composer Henri Dutilleul who will visit festival, and Philippe Genty Puppet Company. Talks, tours, exhibitions and fringe. Appearances by New London Consort under Philip Pickett, Polish Chamber Orchestra, Courtney Pine, Chris Barber, Peter Frank and Alfred Brendel. Also an evening with Jan Morris, English Chamber Theatre with Derek Jacobi and Isla Blair, and Excolonia de Montserrat boys' choir from Spain. May 25-June 10: Box-office, Century House, 4 Pierrepont Street, Bath BA1 1LE (0225 453302/46411)  
**BEAUMARIS FESTIVAL:** International performers, orchestral concerts, recitals, lectures, poetry readings, art exhibitions, jazz and fringe. Also medieval fairs at Beaumaris Castle in July and August. May 26-June 3: Festival Office, Hendrif, West End, Beaumaris (0246 810930)  
**BEVERLEY EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Highlights include compline by candlelight in Beverley Minster; Cambridge Musicians in *Tales of the Unexplored*; *The Transport* and *Sound* lectures; recital; Hanover Band performance in Minster; and medieval and Renaissance dance. May 3-6: Festival Office, Guildhall, Register Square, Beverley (0482 867430)  
**BOURNEMOUTH FORTIES FESTIVAL:** Tea dances and music-while-you-work parties for those who remember the 1940s. Various venues. May 12-25: Details: Tourism Office, Westover Road, Bournemouth (0202 291718)

**BRIGHTON FESTIVAL:** "Curtain up: The New Europe" is theme, exploring contexts of Eastern Europe in context of glasnost and perestroika, with companies from Poland, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Romania, Bulgaria and East Germany. Including Polish State Opera, Prague Chamber Ballet, stars of Bolshoi Ballet, Leipzig Gewandhaus Chamber Orchestra and Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra. Jazz festival; media festival of film; celebration of Czech and Slovak writers; comedy festival; and "Brighton Town Plays" community theatre in old town. May 4-27: Festival Office, Marlborough House, 54 Old Steine, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 29801)  
**CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL:** Highlights include Monteverdi Vespers, John Lill and the Amadeus Duo, the King's Consort Baroque Ensemble, Westminster Cathedral Choir and Humphrey Lyttelton. Also exhibition by Sidney Nolan. May 12-19: Cathedral, Chelmsford (0245 265848)  
**CHICHESTER FESTIVAL:** Penelope Keith in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*; world premiere of *Born Again*, based on Ionesco play, directed by Peter Hall with designs by Gerald Scarfe; British premiere of stage version of Ingmar Bergman's *Scenes from a Marriage* and musical *70 Girls 70*; and Neil Simon's *Rumours*. From May: Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 784437)

**DICKENS FESTIVAL:** Grand Dickensian Parade, scenes from novels of Dickens, Mr Pickwick special train, Victorian circus and funfair, rural crafts, street entertainment, fireworks and festival ball. Grand finale a son et lumière performance of *Lionheart* in Castle moat. May 31-June 3: Tourist Information Centre, Eastgate Cottage, High Street, Rochester, Kent (0634 43666)  
**THE DOLMETSCH YEARS:** Festival to commemorate fifth anniversary of death of early music pioneer Arnold Dolmetsch. Artists include Jennifer Bate, Trevor Pinnock, Melvyn Tan, Guildhall String Ensemble and King's Singers. May 22-26: St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061)  
**GLASGOW MAYFEST:** Eighth year of festival

combining Scottish and international talent, with dance, drama, classical and popular music, comedy, cabaret, film, workshops, exhibitions and children's events at more than 200 venues across city. Also "Front-Line States" season of anti-apartheid work by African artists, theatre from Soviet Georgia, and celebration of Celtic music. May 4-26: Mayfest, 18 Albion Street, Glasgow (041 552 8000)  
**GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA:** New productions of *Die Zauberflöte* and Tippett's fifth opera, *New Year* (European premiere); plus revivals of *Albert Herring*, *Kat's Kabanova*, *Capriccio* and *Faust*. May 21-August 22: Glynedebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 812321)  
**HARROGATE SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Nigel Kennedy plays Vivaldi; jazz with London Wasp Factory; violin and viola recital with John Loughran. May 9-11: Festival Office, Royal Baths, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (0423 562303)  
**HOLMFIRTH FOLK FESTIVAL:** Folk concerts, cello, morris dancing, singing, children's activities. May 4-6: Civic Hall, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire (0484 683908)  
**GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL OPERA FESTIVAL:** Contemporary opera and world premieres including Thomas Allen with Royal Philharmonic, Mendelssohn's *Opera in Rudzinski's* *Mennegins*, Modern Music Theatre Troupe, Pavilion Opera, Opera Restor'd, and Matrix Ensemble. May 30-June 28: Festival Office, 64 Prince of Wales Mansions Drive, London SW11 (01-720 7610)  
**MALVERN FESTIVAL:** Cambridge Theatre Company present Mrs Warren's *Professor*; English music from the UK and abroad; Finzi, Delius, Britten; Prunella Scales in Queen Victoria evening; G & S with the ENO; and appearances by Anthony Goldstone, Anthony Hopkins, Frank Muir and Marisa Robles. Jazz, brass, exhibitions and film. May 20-June 2: Festival Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern (0684 572725)  
**NATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL:** Gateshead is this year's location, with 200 acres of floral creations and more than 2 million trees from the UK and abroad; plus more than 150 hours of events, including river pageants, air shows, film festival and musical and sports events. May 18-October 21: Visitor Information Centre (091 480 5804)  
**NEWBURY SPRING FESTIVAL:** Twelfth festival features orchestras and international chamber ensembles including Tallish Quartet of Prague, Israel Piano Trio, Dorian Wind Quintet of New York, Richard Hickox and Oira Harmony are artists in residence. Appearances by Paul Hansard's puppets, Benny Green with Marion Montgomery, flamenco guitarist Paco Peña, George Melly with John Chilton's Feetwarmers, Opera Restor'd; plus New Orleans Mardi Gras. May 5-19: Festival Office, Suite 3, Town Hall, Newbury, Berkshire (0635 49919/48774)  
**NOTTINGHAM FESTIVAL:** Nottingham performers mark



Soviet style Satyricon of Moscow performs Jean Genet's *The Maids* at the Brighton Festival

European Tourism Year; plus artists from Australia, Canada, Bolivia, Russia, Zimbabwe, India, Pakistan, Romania, etc. Theatre includes new Stephen Lowe musical, *Love in the Land of the Luddites* by Meeting Ground Theatre Company and Nottingham Playhouse; dance with Georgian State Dance Co and companies from Africa and Cambodia; and G & S with D'Oyly Carte. Also Heiniken Music Big Top including rock, jazz, and reggae with Desmond Dekker; comedy, orchestral concerts, lectures, film. May 26-June 10: Box-office, Victoria Centre, Nottingham (0602 419741)  
**OXFORD ARTWEEK:** Projects include large-scale painting in South Parks, flag and banner-making, sculpture, mammoth bus-painting project and craft workers from all over the country. May 16-June 3: Festival Office (0865 249169)  
**RAINFEST FESTIVAL:** Performances and exhibitions to raise funds for Tropical Rainforest Campaign at Friends of the Earth, with rainforest plays and concerts, children's workshops including mask-making and puppets. Lasting Through Action rainforest project and sound installation by Brian Eno. Events at Barbican. Also percussion recital at Wigmore Hall. May 2-June 5: Details: Friends of the Earth, 26 Underwood Street, London N1 (01-490 1555/4734)  
**RIPON CHARTER FESTIVAL:** Celebration of granting of Ripon's charter in 886. Drama, recitals, exhibitions at various venues. May 24-June 10: Festival Trust, Beckett's House, 34 Market Place, Ripon, North Yorkshire (0765 706881)  
**SHEFFIELD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Inspiration from Czechoslovakia brings visits from Czech musicians, including Tallish String Quartet and Radoslav Kvapil, who join Lindsay String Quartet in series of concerts featuring music of Dvorak, Janacek, Martinu and Suk. Also workshops, and "Czech Mates" exploration of Czech nationalism in words and music. May 12-26: Festival Office, 65 Rawcliffe Lane, York (0904 654738)  
**SOLIHULL ARTS FESTIVAL:** Programme includes Peter Donohoe, Lindsay String Quartet, Loose Tubes, Piers Lane, New London Consort and Trestle Theatre Company. Concerts, theatre, dance, exhibitions, films, fireworks, literary events and photography. May 5-13: Festival Office, Solihull MBC Central Library, Homer Road, Solihull (021 704 8971)  
**SWALEDALE FESTIVAL:** Classical and folk music, outdoor events, drama, lectures, craft exhibitions at various venues. May 25-June 10: Mrs S. Ross, Hunt House, Low Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire

and Britten's *Children's Crusade* (setting of Brecht ballad for children). Elisabeth Söderström is artist in residence; recitals by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Jennifer Bate; and London Sinfonietta perform with Terry Edwards and Oliver Knussen. June 8-24: Aldeburgh Foundation, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (0728 452935)  
**ALMEIDA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC:** Highlights include festival commission by John Cage, *Europerat*; Gerald Barry's opera *The Intelligence Park*; concert suites by Kurt Weill; and new music by Iannis Xenakis, Elliott Carter, Philip Glass, Terry Riley and David Byrne. Also music from the Soviet Union. June 14-July 14: Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 (01-359 4404)  
**BAILEYS SUMMERSTAGE:** Open air concerts in National Trust, English Heritage and other properties, including Kedleston Hall (Derby), Audley End (Saffron Walden), Dyrham Park (Chippenham), Hopetoun House (Edinburgh), Harwood House (Leeds), Peversey Castle (Eastbourne), Kingston Lacy (Bournemouth), Wrest Park (Luton), Llanidloek Park (Stretford), Castle Howard, Bateman's (East Sussex), and Cardiff Castle. June-August: Details from venues  
**BOURNEMOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Festival marks European Tourism Year, with highlights including James Galway and the Chieftains, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the Winter Gardens, and the Winter Park Bach Choral from Orlando, US.

June 23-July 7: Department of Tourism, Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset (0202 291718)  
**BROADSTAIRS DICKENS FESTIVAL:** Concerts, plays, dances, bathing party and other events connected with Dickens. Various venues. June 16-23: Festival Office, Roofs, 58 High Street, Broadstairs, Kent (0843 63453)  
**CHARLECOTE PARK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL:** Festival on National Trust property. Emma Kirkby and Anthony Rooley provide music of Shakespeare's time. Also New Budapest String Quartet, I Fagiolini singers, Maurice Hasson, and Arnaldo Cohen celebrity recital. June 22-27: Charlecote Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick (0789 470277)  
**CLIVEDEN OPEN AIR FESTIVAL:** Berkshire Shakespeare Players perform *A Winter's Tale* on National Trust property. June 27-July 1: Festival Box Office, PO Box 938, Ascot, Berkshire  
**EXETER FESTIVAL:** "Reflections" is theme, with cathedral carillon concerts by European Community Chamber Orchestra, and Academy of St Martin in the Fields; Labèque sisters; Jessye Norman recital; and first performance of Richard Harvey viola concerto specially commissioned for Roger Chase. Dance and drama at Northcott Theatre. June 13-30: Festival Office, Civic Centre, Exeter, Devon (0392 265200)  
**GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Groups from Western Europe as well as Scottish artists. Workshops and composers in residence. Part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital of Europe year. June 29-July 8: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)  
**GREENWICH FESTIVAL:** Felix Schmidt (cellist) is artist in residence. Concerts at The Queen's House, appearances by Julian Bream with Peggy Ashcroft, riverboat cruises of jazz, folk and African music on the Thames, traditional folk music from Ireland, Scotland, Zimbabwe and Bulgaria, and Andean food tasting with Argentinian chef. June 1-17: Festival Office, 151 Rous St, London SE15 (01-317 8687)  
**KENT REP:** Summer festival at Dover Castle. Lakeside Theatre includes *The Tempest*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Arms and the Man*. Also concerts: mainly Mozart, Goodtime George with George Melly, from Charleston to Swing with Black Cat Rhythm Band, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. June-August: Box-office, Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent (0732 866114)  
**LEEDS FESTIVAL:** New multi-arts festival featuring Opera North, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and local organizations, with performances in neighbouring districts. Appearances by Alfred Brendel, John Williams, and Simon Rattle. Music, dance, theatre, film, visual arts, and ethnic and community arts. June 22-July 8: Festival Office, 3 St Peter's Buildings, York Street, Leeds (0532 428887)  
**LUDLOW FESTIVAL:** Production of *The Merchant of Venice* at Ludlow Castle, and appearances by London Mozart Players, Benjamin Luxon (singing *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), and Lawrence Orchestra, Humphrey Lyttelton, Hinge and Bracket, and Frankie Howard. Exhibitions, films, and world premiere of dramatic cantata by Shropshire composer Charles Delin. June 23-July 8: Festival Office, Castle Square, Ludlow, Shropshire (0584 675070)  
**LUTHERAN FESTIVAL OF BAROQUE MUSIC:** "Femmes Fatales" is this year's theme, with appearances by

American soprano Ann Monoyios, Opera de Paris star Guillemette Laurens, and Canadian soprano Nancy Argenta. Marie Leonhardt brings Massus Ensemble, and Vivaldi's oratorio *Juditha triumphans* receives a rare performance. St James's Baroque Players are in residence. June 1-27: Festival Office, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-434 4003)  
**POLEDEN LACEY OPEN AIR THEATRE:** 1990 season includes *As You Like It*, *Pasadena Roof Orchestra*, *The Sorcerer*, David Kossoff, and Humphrey Lyttelton Band. June 20-July 8: Box-office, National Trust, Polesden Lacey, Dorking, Surrey (0372 58950)  
**ST MAGNUS FESTIVAL:** Highlights this year include premieres of Peter Maxwell Davies' Music Theatre for Schools, Richard Rodney Bennett's Percussion Concerto, and John McLeod works Fanny From with Orkney Schools Orchestra; Maxwell Davies conducts his own Strathclyde Concerto No 2; and appearances by Peter Donohoe, Phoenix Dance Company, and Eborac Cathedral Choir. Also Philip Glass opera *The Fall of the House of Usher*. June 22-27: Festival Secretary, "Strandall", 15 Nicolson Street, Kirkwall, Orkney  
**SEVENOAKS FESTIVAL:** Highlights include Borodin String Quartet, Richard Baker in *The Best of British*, Compass Theatre in *The Alchemist* and *The Merchant of Venice*, Trestle Theatre Company in *Ties That Bind*, and Humphrey Lyttelton with Helen Shapiro. Appearances by Henry Cooper, Emma Johnson, Melvyn Tan, Lumiere and Son and Bamboozle. June 18-28: Festival Office, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent (0732 455133)  
**SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL:** Fourteenth festival includes 20th century, early church, and Asian music, with world premiere of Britten's *The Company of Heaven*, works by Tippett (to mark his 85th birthday) and Haydn's *Creation*. June 7-22: Box-office, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4 (01-248 4250)  
**THAXTED FESTIVAL:** Tenth festival takes theme, "The British Connection", with appearances by Julian Lloyd Webber, Paul Patterson, St James's Baroque Players, Ionian Singers, Stuart Bedford with Michela Petri, Promethee Ensemble, Alburni Chamber Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox, and many others. Concert, Plus Opera Restor'd perform at the Barn Theatre, Little Easton, with grounds open for picnic suppers. June 22-July 15: Ticket office, Thaxted Galleries, 1 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted, Essex (0371 84295)  
**THREE SPIRES FESTIVAL:** Classical arts and music and theatre, including performances by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, David Wilcocks, Richard Hickox, and Palm Court Orchestra. Music by Bernstein, Copland, Ives, Gershwin, Cole Porter, Souza, and Irving Berlin. Also exhibitions on the First Americas and American Folk Art. June 24-July 7: Mrs E. Simfield, Bryher, Parnarworthall, Truro, Cornwall (0872 363346)  
**WORTHING BOROUGH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS:** Events to celebrate formation of the Borough. Various venues. June 10-30: Worthing Borough Council, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing, West Sussex (0903 39999 ext 374)

Continued next week

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**JUNE**

**ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL:** Elliott Carter and Alexander Goehr are composers in residence, with performances of Goehr's *Sing Ariel* and his Triptych including *Sonata about Jerusalem*. Performances of Copland's opera *The Tender Land*, semi-staged *Dido and Aeneas*

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## TRAVEL

# Playing it cool in an Arctic wonderland

Iceland thrives  
on spectacle  
and fish dinners,

John Russell  
Taylor reports



Every schoolchild knows that Greenland is icy and Iceland is green. And if the name given to Iceland by a disgruntled ninth-century Viking called Floki did not discourage settlers, at least it has moulded our ideas.

Iceland, in the middle of the north Atlantic, is formally a part of Europe, though on the map it looks much closer to America and is stuck with the image of Arctic cold, something for rugged types only. Naturally, this is not the way natives see it. Though they recognize that the long, dark winters can be hard, they maintain that the warm waters of the Gulf Stream do not allow winter to be that hard.

"Why," they ask, "do you not come back around Christmas? Then you would find all the cultural life of Reykjavik going full tilt: major shows in the galleries, the National Theatre and Opera offering full programmes." It may well be true, despite the unfortunate tendency of tourists to come in the summer, when there is sunshine for days on end (nights, too).

Hardy types may go back-packing and camping; softer souls usually stay in the capital, Reykjavik, which contains more than half of Iceland's 290,000 population, and most of the hotels and other facilities. Outside the capital, there are only four towns which have more than 5,000 inhabitants, and three of these are within 25 miles. Apart from its practicality as a



PHOTOGRAPHS: CHIP HIRS / GEOFF JOHNSON

Windsurfers' sails bring colour to the ice floes: on land, warmed by the Gulf Stream, spring and autumn are said to be the best times to explore Iceland's beauty, though the islanders say "it all happens here at Christmas"

centre, Reykjavik has many and peculiar charms. It is like Toytown with a sense of purpose and dignity. The fact that you can telephone almost any Government minister and find that he or she will pick up the phone and speak to you, makes it more efficient, as well as more agreeable.

Spring and autumn are the ideal times for good weather, but even at the height of summer there is still a lot going on. Reykjavik has a surprising number of museums devoted to a single artist, and one of them at least, commemorating the sculpture of Einar Jonsson, is decidedly grandiose, as befits the vaulting ambition and cloudy symbolism of the work. Down by the lake, which is Reykjavik's

most immediately distinguishing feature, there is the new National Gallery, a stunningly beautiful extension of a former, slightly oriental-looking ice house.

Foreigners in Iceland tend to be looked on with amiable

tolerance, and a certain reserve. A home-grown musical, *Land of My Fathers*, gives us the clue as to why: Iceland, with its history of colonization by Denmark, then successive protective occupations by Britain and the United States

during the Second World War, has reason to be wary. But it is pleasing that the natives are friendly enough when you see them. Of course, that is not likely to be very often once you get down to the main business: looking at the views.

Facing roads that hardly qualify as tracks, you grit your teeth and head for the next spectacular sight. Hot and cold running water abounds, whether in the form of dashing cataracts and foaming falls, or in geysers shooting into the air at nature's whim — though it is a bit disillusioning to learn that the Great Geyser, the grand-daddy of them all, can now only usually be persuaded to perform by being fed with a concentrated diet of carbotic soap tablets. For connoisseurs

of the bizarre rather than the sublime, there are the astonishing springs of Húsafell, where water from the ice fields pours into the stream below from a hundred points in the lava cliff, as though squeezed out of a giant sponge.

Lunar landscapes Iceland has in plenty, and there seems no end to the variety of forms the lava boulders take, or the shades of moss and lichen. The most famous lava formation is Thingvellir, the site of the Icelandic administrative assembly, or Althing, from AD 930 on. In *Letters from High Latitudes* (1856), Lord Dufferin says, with the pardonable enthusiasm: "The Geysers are certainly wonderful marvels of nature, but more wonderful, more mar-

vellous, is Thingvellir; and if the one repay you for crossing the Spanish Sea, it would be worth while to go round the world to reach the other." Even today, this great river valley, with its serried ranks of lava cliffs looking out over the

damp plain below, is enough to take anyone's breath away. Back in Reykjavik, over another wonderful fish dinner, however, you reflect that nature is perfect in its place, but that there is a lot to be said for the amenities of civilization.

## TRAVEL NOTES

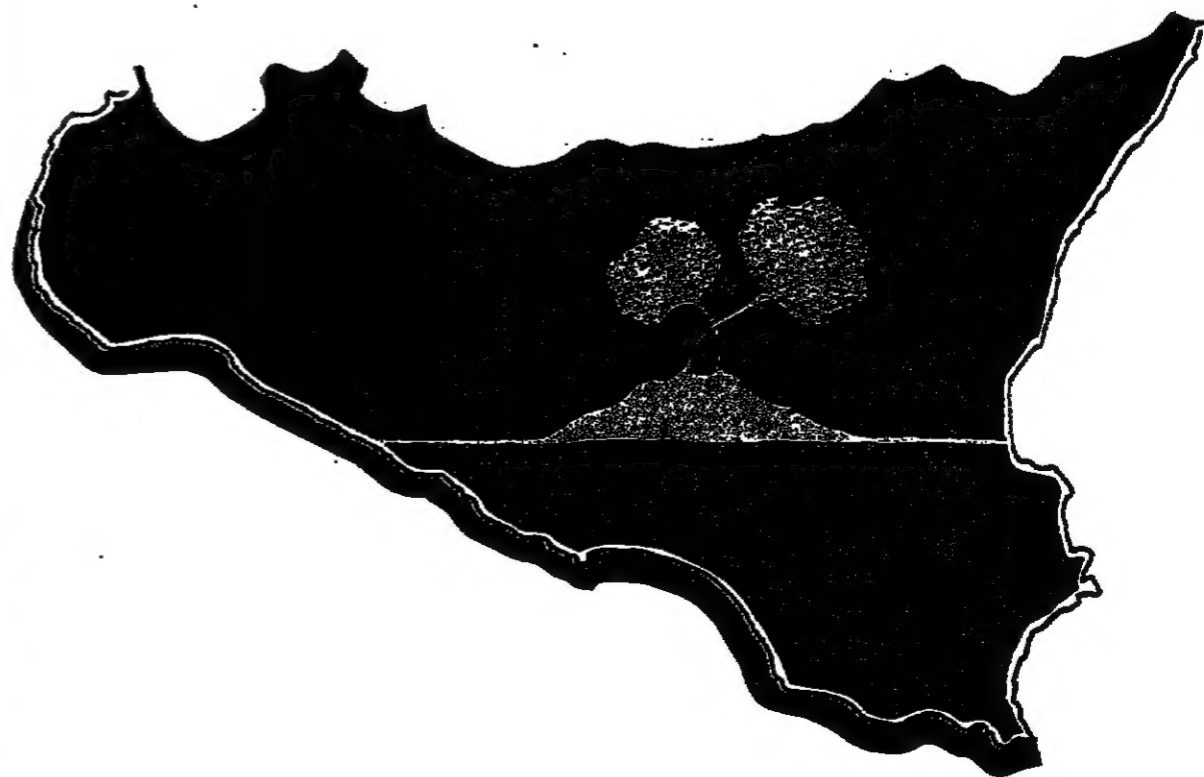
- Icelandair, 73 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01-499 9971), flies direct to Keflavik from Heathrow; Apex return about £260. National tourist office, same address (01-499 6721).
- Car hire, with mileage charges, costs up to £100 a day, but you can pick up the car ferry from Copenhagen in the Faeroes.
- Iceland is expensive, and there is a 25 per cent tax on food, which features delicious fish — and lamb, smoked and cured.
- Best way to change money until you get to Iceland, where the rate is better. The country refunds VAT on certain goods at exit. A taxi from the airport into Reykjavik costs about £20.
- Reykjavik hotels are clean and friendly (once you get used to the natural hot water smelling strongly of sulphur), and cost about £70 a night for a double room.



"Toytown": Reykjavik, Iceland's small but busy cultural hub

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Ausonia the Sicilian holiday specialists can now offer an insight into the real Sicily. Return the coupon today or call 0293 820020 for our free 80 page colour brochure detailing our complete range of specially selected Sicilian hotels and self catering apartments, in both sophisticated and unspoilt surroundings. From £192 Fly Drive and £206 Half Board. Prices per week per person. Minimum 2 people sharing. I would like to receive a copy of Ausonia's Sicilian Rainbow Holidays 1990 brochure.

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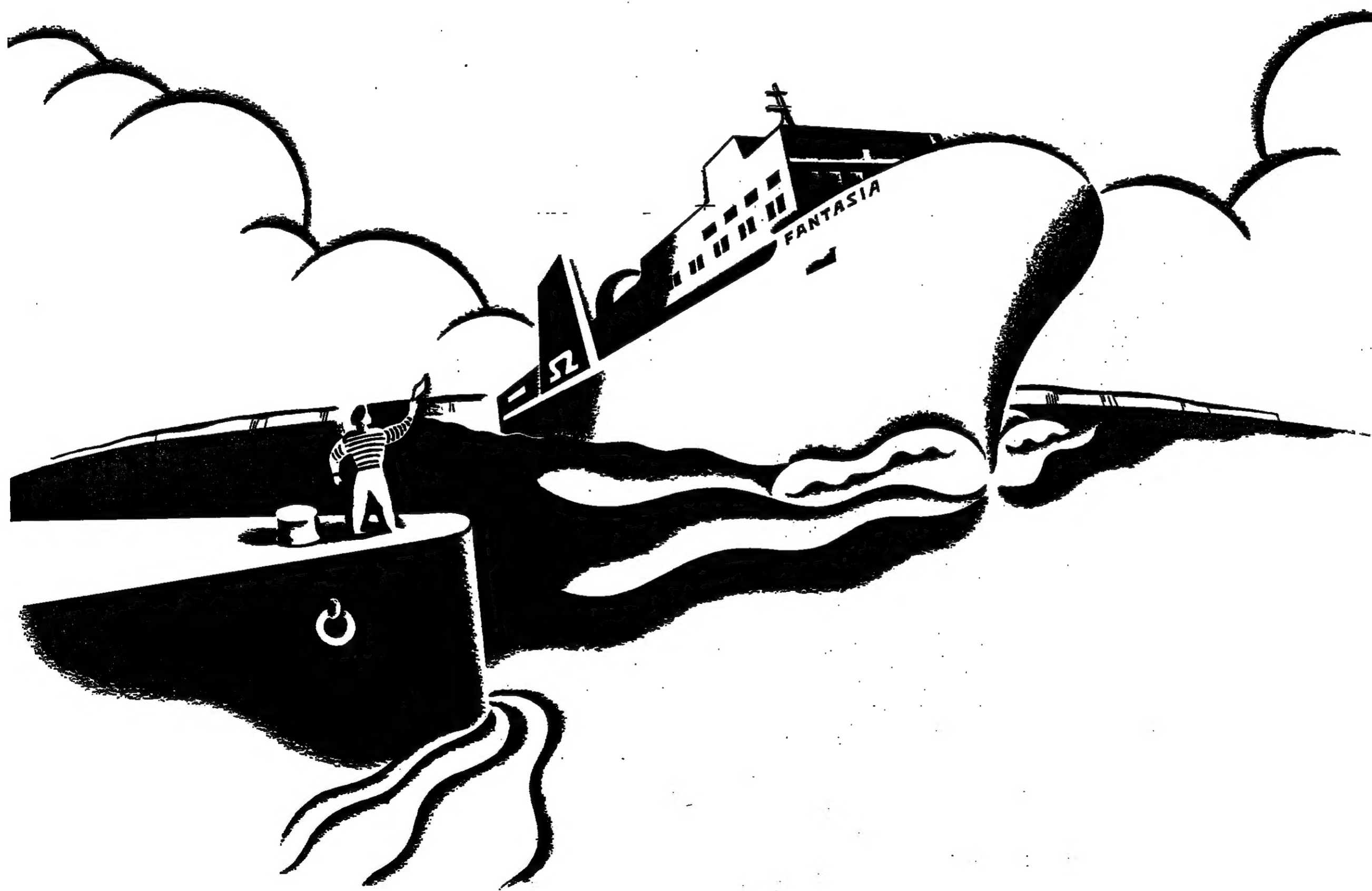
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Ausonia Services Ltd., Ausonia House, 15 Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW

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# Announcing a new leisure centre that stretches for 22 miles.



You can now dance all the way to France.  
Or shop your way across.  
Children can share the trip with a few old  
friends. Like Tom and Jerry or Bugs Bunny.  
Because Sealink are opening the doors of the  
biggest floating leisure complex you've ever seen.  
Our new ferry, the *Fantasia*, casts off from  
Dover. With so much to do on board, you won't  
even know you've arrived at Calais.

Trip a little light fantastic in our skydome.  
disco, or pick up a few goodies in our amazing  
duty and tax-free shopping areas.

Relax in the spaciousness of the bar or the  
luxury two-tier Motorists' Lounge.

Or discover how our free-flow restaurant  
does away with queues.

To give a taste of Italy on the way to France,  
there's the world's first onboard Pizza Factory,

serving a tempting array of freshly-baked pizzas.

Your local travel agent or motoring organis-  
ation will fill you in on the details.

Or call Sealink on 0223 647047.

After all, what could be better than starting  
your holiday before you even get there?

**SEALINK BRITISH  
FERRIES**  
WE'LL HELP YOU ARRIVE SHIPSHAPE.

Archbishop  
Church  
battle  
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